

THE *Country* GUIDE

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WABASSO COTTONS



Photo by Eva Luoma

THE *Country* GUIDE

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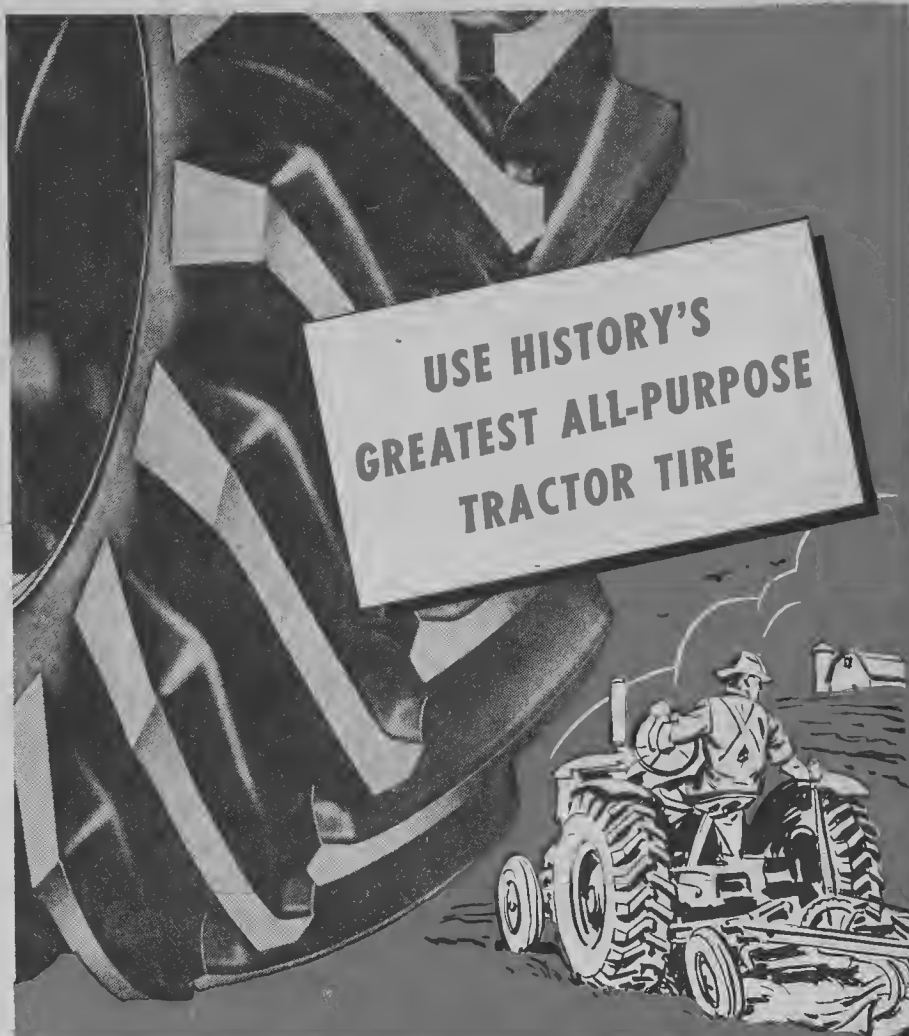
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NAME _____

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Under the Peace Tower

by HUGH BOYD

THE past winter in the Ottawa valley was conspicuous for abnormally high temperatures and a light snowfall, for which dubious blessings, payment will probably be exacted in due course. The weatherman pored over his records for 65 years or so, to find anything like it.

Political weathermen have been doing some research work, too. They find that up to early spring at any rate, that this has been one of the most unproductive sessions of Parliament in history. That is to say, in terms of legislation and other essential public business accomplished.

Last month's catalog of visitors included Mr. R. A. Butler, the British chancellor of the exchequer, to whom special interest attached, because of the feeling that Ottawa might quite possibly be welcoming a future British prime minister. He certainly did nothing to dispel that impression. However, Mr. Butler's visit has left many people wondering how far it will bear fruit in the form of expanded trade—presumably one of its chief objectives.

The question is complex, because the answer depends so largely upon actions taken outside Canada—particularly at Washington. Thus, western farmers, with their eyes on the British market, have more than a passing interest in the trade policies of the new United States administration and Congress. Restrictions, whether by tariffs, or quotas, or customs rulings, still stand in the way of British exporters trying to earn dollars in the American market. Those dollars are obviously required in order to buy goods from Canada, as well as from the U.S.

Canada's own attitude toward imports, while imperfect, looks considerably better. The general scale of Canadian tariffs is low when compared with those of almost all other countries. We have lived up to the spirit of the Geneva trade agreement by cleaning up our customs regulations—which the U.S. has not yet done. On the tariff side, indeed, the British don't seem anxious to see Canada moving too enthusiastically in the direction of free trade—because every article admitted free of duty wipes out the British preferential tariff. And without question, the preference helps offset the geographic disadvantage under which British traders labor, when trying to sell goods to Canadians in competition with the United States.

There is a good deal of sympathy here with that attitude. At the same time, it seems a fair question to ask whether British manufacturers are making the most of their opportunities in the Canadian market. In their favor, apart from tariff advantages, is an underlying willingness on the part of Canadians to buy British goods. What counts more is a general respect for the quality of British workmanship.

But a high quality product at a reasonable price means little, if it can't be delivered to the customer's order. There have been disappointing experiences, which can be explained only in part by the difficulties arising from re-armament in Britain. A conspicuous example is the automobile adventure.



The British, with a tariff advantage over all other European countries, have demonstrated that there is a sizable market in this country for small and medium-sized cars, especially where there are good roads. They pioneered the field; the North American makers still clung to the idea of bigness, and offered no alternative. But service in parts has lagged behind. One or two British firms are now moving energetically to correct this defect: unless the movement is general, however, a promising trade may suffer a serious setback.

Perhaps Mr. Butler heard about some of these marketing problems when he was in Ottawa. They do have a distinct bearing on his slogan of "trade not aid."

None of this is academic to the western farmer, who, unlike some people in other parts of Canada, needs no lessons on the value of two-way trade and many-way trade. It is largely because his British customers are short of dollars to purchase bacon, eggs, cheese and so on, that he is afraid of still further price declines. Last month, with Mr. Butler's visit sandwiched in between, the federal cabinet met two farmers' delegations. Both the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Prairie Farmers' Unions laid much stress on price support policy in the course of a general presentation of views. The CFA pointed out that net farm income in 1952, according to preliminary official figures, had dropped by 12 per cent from the previous year, while farm costs had actually risen nearly five per cent.

Meanwhile in the United States, there were signs that the new administration aims to reduce its own supports—which, of course, have been at much higher levels than in Canada. There is some interest here in the words of Mr. Ezra Benson, the secretary of agriculture: "Eventually, I hope we can get agriculture on its own feet, so it won't have to depend so greatly on price supports. At least we should get away from a rigid system of high supports."

Possibly Mr. Benson hopes to work his way cautiously toward something like Canada's Agricultural Prices Support Act.

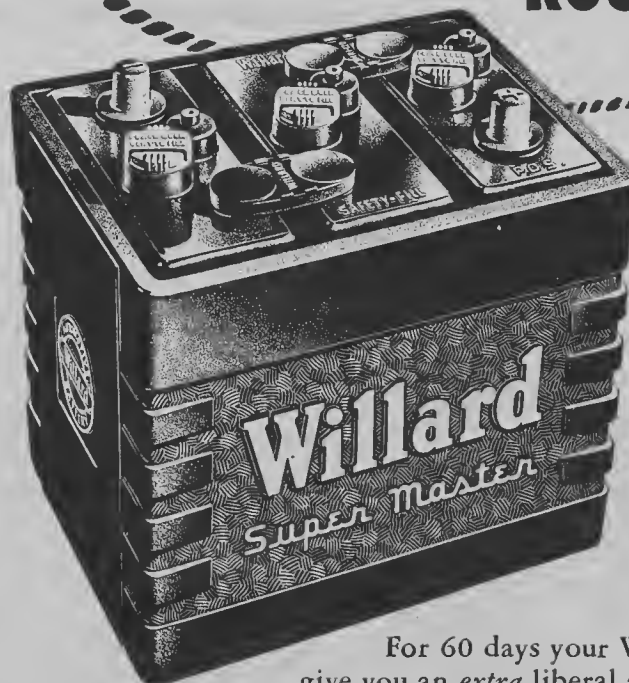
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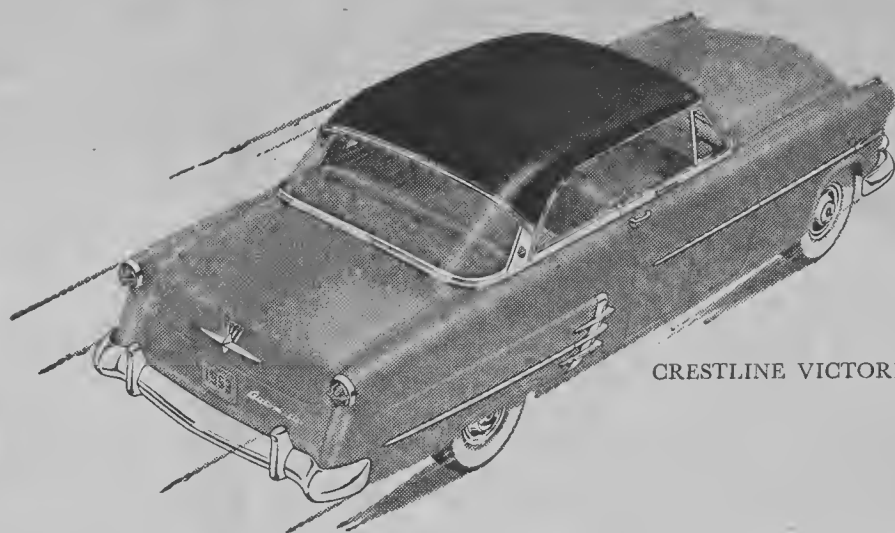
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THE Goodwill Mission which Canada sent to Latin America in January, was not only a goodwill mission in the ordinary sense of the word, but it had a very special interest in trade development. It was for this reason that the Mission was headed by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe.

We were not able to visit all of the 20 or more countries in Central and South America, but in the short space of five weeks, from the time the party left Ottawa until it returned, 11 countries were visited. They were: Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay on the mainland, and Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Trinidad in the West Indies.

The group consisted 12 persons, of whom five, including the Minister, were from the Department of Trade and Commerce. One represented the Department of External Affairs, and the remainder, Canadian industry and trade. There was one representative each from the Canadian-South American Association, the Canadian Exporters' Association, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the milling industry, the pulp and paper industry, and the Quebec Chamber of Commerce. Agriculture was represented by Jean Marie Bonin, general manager, La Co-operative Agricole de Granby, in addition to the Wheat Board representative. It was my third visit to some of these countries as a representative of the Canadian Wheat Board.

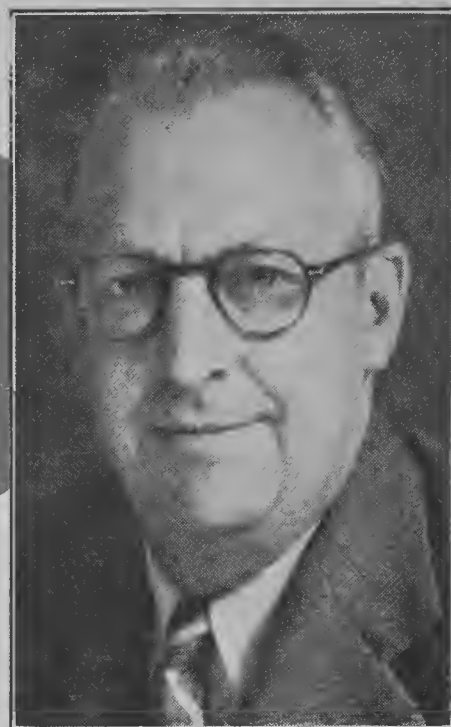
Since we travelled mostly by air, we had little opportunity to see very much of the countries visited, outside of urban centers. Wherever we went, the details of our program had been arranged in advance by the local Canadian embassies or consulates. The governments of the countries visited extended official welcomes to the Mission, and were most helpful at all times. In all countries, we met the presidents and high government officials, as well as businessmen. It was all most interesting and worthwhile, and left me with the desire to see more of the people and resources of each country we visited.

South America is a magnificent continent, with the incomparable Andes in the west and its great forests, plains, and rivers; but most important of all are the people themselves. Nowhere in the world will you meet more charming people than in Latin America. They are extremely courteous and friendly, and have the knack of making a visitor feel at home immediately. The businessmen of Latin America are keen, alert and progressive. They are proud of their countries, and take great pride in their achievements.

CANADA'S trade with Latin America has been growing very rapidly. Our total trade with these countries in the calendar year 1938, for example, amounted to only \$33 million. This meant exports of only \$17.4 million, and imports of \$16 million. Last year, our total trade with these countries amounted to \$556 million, including exports of \$272.4 million and imports of \$284.2 million. Trade, like crops and livestock, must be nourished and protected with good will and careful attention; hence the government mission to Latin America.

The figures indicate that our exports to Latin American countries are practically balanced by imports from the same countries; and those visited by the Mission account for about 80 per cent of our Latin American trade. Moreover, climate and geography have so regulated the production and trade of Canada and these countries, that we more or less complement each other. Tropical or semi-tropical countries like Brazil, Venezuela and Colombia, for example, produce coffee, which we buy;

Mission to Latin America



Above: C. B. Davidson, secretary, Canadian Wheat Board. Left: view of the business center of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

A brief account of the Canadian Goodwill Mission to eleven Latin American countries, as told to The Country Guide

by C. B. DAVIDSON

and they, in turn, purchase our wheat and flour, since wheat is produced more economically in the countries of the Temperate Zone. Other food products which we send them are fish and milk products; but well over half of our total exports to them consist of machinery and manufactured goods.

This export of industrial goods is, therefore, an important feature of our trade with Latin America, which, like Canada, has under way a vast development of natural resources. Likewise, the populations of these countries are increasing very rapidly. When we remember that Latin America already has a population of 150 million people, whose living standards are rising very noticeably, the importance of these markets will be evident, both as to food and manufactured products.

In Canada's trade with all other countries, the United States and the United Kingdom are, of course, our most important markets. After these, however, four other countries follow very closely. One of these is Brazil, and the others are Belgium,

Germany and Japan. Last year, Canadian exports to Brazil amounted to slightly over \$81 million, which compares with only \$3.5 million before World War II.

Western Canada, of course, has a special interest in Latin America, as a market for Canadian wheat. In pre-war years our wheat exports to this area were very small. After World War II, we began to find markets in these countries for wheat; and also for flour in countries which do not have flour mills. Even five years ago our exports of wheat and flour to Latin America ranged from 10 to 15 million bushels. In the 1951-52 crop year, our exports were approximately 30 million bushels; and in the 1952-53 crop year a new record will be established.

These countries have demonstrated that they can provide a steady and an increasing market for our exports of wheat. There is also a small, but growing, demand for cereal crops such as oats and barley. In addition, I would particularly like to stress the market which exists in Latin America for other farm products such as condensed and powdered milk. Generally speaking, in these countries milk supplies are limited, and some milk in powdered form is imported by practically all of the Latin American countries. While in Mexico I was much interested to learn also, that Mexico was using Canadian eggs in substantial volume.

EACH of the Latin American countries has its own characteristics, of course; and one would need to know them very well indeed to make accurate comparisons between them. Brazil is by far the largest, with approximately 3.2 million square miles, as compared with Canada's 3.8 million.

Her population is about 52 million. Much of this huge country is as yet quite undeveloped, but about two-thirds of the people are engaged in agriculture and related occupations. Brazil produces coffee, corn, rice, cotton, sugar cane, and has a very large livestock population, particularly of cattle. Her principal export items are coffee, followed by cotton, and more recently, by iron ore.

The Argentine is, of course, a great agricultural country and has been noted for its exports of wheat, corn, oil seeds and meat. A year ago, Argentina experienced a disastrous crop failure, but yields in 1952 were generally above average, and at the time of our visit, the crop was just commencing to move.

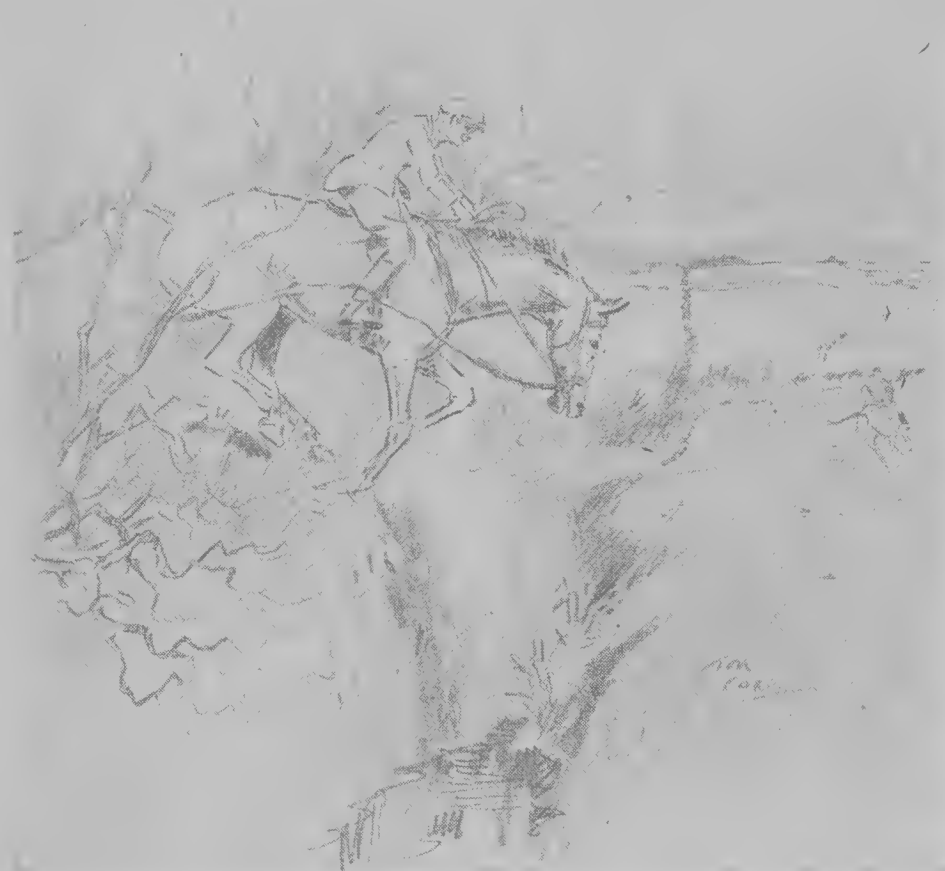
Contrary to our system of bulk handling in Canada, wheat in the Argentine is handled in bags from country points. The farmer delivers his wheat to the nearest railway station in bags, which are loaded on small, flat, railway cars for shipment to the various ports. The grain is generally covered during transport, by a tarpaulin to protect it from the weather. In the more northerly parts of the Argentine, corn is a principal crop, but wheat becomes more important (Please turn to page 90)



The Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Canada's Minister of Trade and Commerce (left), examines a coffee plant on a Brazilian plantation.

The Nerve Test

by STANISLAUS LYNCH



Wee Bandy's chestnut was being ridden as he had never been ridden before.

HOW do you expect me to give you a job? Your first wages would burn a hole in your pocket until you got drinking them!" said Gerry Regan, as he coiled the leash of his hunting whip, with the effortless skill of the adept.

"They would, some time ago, Mr. Regan," said Wee Bandy, penitently, "but I quit making a fool o' myself."

"Oh, I've heard that story so often."

"Lookit, Mr. Regan! Will this convince you?" said Wee Bandy, earnestly. "Here's four pounds I earned bringing a batch o' horses from Limerick Fair up to the North. Rode bareback, day an' night! Never spent a penny of it."

"Glad to hear it," said Gerry Regan, a tone of admiration creeping into his voice. "That was fairly hard work. But it called for endurance more than nerve. Shakey nerves are useless about my place. My men must be able to show off horses, fearlessly, in the hunting field."

"Give me another chance, sir," Wee Bandy pleaded. "I'm sick an' tired of living from hand to mouth in horse fairs. If I got a steady job . . ."

"Yes, but how long would you keep it? You've been on the batter so long, your nerves must be in ribbons!"

"If it's me nerves that's worrying you, sir, you can test them with some unbroken colt, if you like."

"I haven't an unbroken colt," mused Gerry Regan, "but I've a very troublesome young chestnut horse. A big, highly strung, temperamental gentleman, kicks savagely through sheer nervousness, and misbehaves himself generally; but he's the makings of an outstanding hunter."

Wee Bandy waited in breathless expectancy.

"He'll certainly test your nerves, if you've the courage to ride him at tomorrow's hunt."

"Do you mean . . .?"

"Be in the yard at half-seven in the morning . . ."

"Oh, God, spare your health, sir!" said Wee Bandy, fervently.

"I hope He will, but I'd advise you to ask Him to keep an eye on yourself tomorrow. It's a real nerve test: Yours against the horse's."

"I'll be there at half-seven, sir."

"Good-night, Wee Bandy."

"Good-night, sir."

ALMOST at dawn, Wee Bandy made his appearance at the yard gate of Carn-dun. He paraded restlessly up and down the back avenue, waiting for the gate to be opened. It was a bitterly cold October morning, but it was not the cold that kept him on the move. Nervous excitement kept his blood circulating at top pressure through his veins. When a wood pigeon clamored in the tall pines, his head jerked around instantly in the vain hope that the noise from overhead might, perchance, be caused by the opening of the yard gate.

Out of the mists, at a quarter to seven, the Head Groom appeared on the back avenue. To his face, most people addressed him with all due reverence, as Mr. Waterson, but behind his back, all and sundry called him "Weasels." With an unfriendly scowl on his hatchet face, he approached Wee Bandy. He wore well-cut, well-worn riding clothes, and he wore them well. His hands were rammed into his coat pockets, all of them, in fact, except his thumbs. These thumbs had been crooked carelessly over the lip of either coat pocket until their owner spied Wee Bandy, then both thumbs shot out aggressively into the horizontal and fascinated Wee Bandy, as though they were two automatic pistols pointed at his heart.

"That's a . . . a cool class of a morning, Mister Waterson," said Wee Bandy, rather timorously.

"There's more than the morning cool," snapped Weasels aggressively. "What the blazes takes you around this place at this hour o' the morning. Didn't I tell you the last time you were fired to keep out o' my sight for good?"

"Mr. Regan told me to come."

"Well, I'm telling you to go."

"Mr. Regan wants me to ride the young chestnut."

"Now, look here, Wee Bandy, don't rise me temper at this hour o' the morning. I've enough trouble on me hands without having to attend funerals as well. Go home peaceably, like a good fellow, and try an' get sober." Waterson moved over to the gate, and pressed the bell twice.

"I didn't taste a drink for the last month."

"Don't see how you could! You probably wouldn't taste tar this minute, for you must have the mouth burnt out of yourself drinking methylated spirits, blowhard, and the devil-knows-what!"

"You can argue till you're black in the face, Mr. Waterson, but I didn't take a drop of drink for the last month, an' if you think I'm a liar, look, here's four pounds I earned last week bringing horses from Limerick Fair up to the Border. If I was drinking I wouldn't have what would jingle on a tombstone!"

"Well, maybe the boss is going soft, but if he told you to come up an'

glimpse of a streak of gleaming beauty cavorting madly around the loose-box. Straw bedding was pitched to the ceiling, as the occupant kicked right, left and center. Weasels Waterson stood in the doorway watching the performance.

"You should have a nice quiet hunt on that fellow today," said he, with calculated irony.

"Maybe the poor creature's afraid of us?" Wee Bandy ventured. "Nervous, maybe?"

"Fiddlesticks! He'd eat you alive! We leave a head-collar on him and fish for it with this crooked wire. He's not too bad when you have him caught, but he's a tiger when he's loose."

WEE BANDY surveyed the defiant animal for an instant. It might be a case of nerves or it might be sheer villainy. When he approached with the pail of oats he decided it was the latter. The horse wasn't afraid. Neither was Wee Bandy, and when the animal rushed at him with bared teeth, he swung the bucket and landed a good hard smack on the side of the horse's jaw.

"Terrible sorry for spilling yer oats, Mister Waterson, but if I yielded to him in the first round, I'd be licked. Could I get two old pieces of flat boards for a minute?" he asked. "Anything at all that will kick up a bit of a row."

"I won't let you abuse him."

"I'm not going to abuse him," said Wee Bandy, as he hurried away to the tool-house.

He returned in a few moments with two pieces of light boards. They were about four feet long and a few inches wide. He had an old piece of cloth. Laying the boards one on top of the other, he placed a portion of the cloth between them, about one foot from the end.

The thick cloth served to keep the boards apart; like the prongs of a tuning fork. The remainder of the cloth he wrapped around the short end, making a crudely covered handle. He gripped the handle of his double-bladed weapon in both hands, and entered the horse's box.

The chestnut charged him again with bared (Please turn to page 86)

Wherein the reader comes to know Wee Bandy, the jockey who elected to ride a difficult horse — and follows the hounds and horses to the hunt as told in this delightful story by a noted, modern-day writer of Irish tales

Illustrated by Tom Carr

get killed, it's none o' my business."

Wee Bandy followed him into the yard.

Preserve-us Delaney and his brother, Bunt, were feeding the horses.

"They're all fed now, Mister Waterson," said Preserve-us, "except the big chestnut. We were waiting till you'd come, before we'd go near him. That's a hardy class of a morning, Wee Bandy," he continued affably.

"Never mind the morning," cut in Weasels Waterson, gruffly, "bring me the chestnut's feed."

In a moment or two the oats arrived in a bucket.

"Thanks," snapped Weasels as he opened the door of the chestnut's loose-box. "Hurry on, now, and get the horses ready. The Boss is riding Grey Friar; Bunt rides the Mullingar Mare. You, Preserve-us, will ride the Galway Roan. Wee Bandy rides this chestnut devil, an' I'll stay at home here an' order the coffin!"

He opened the door and the oak partition echoed to the batter of hoof-strokes. Wee Bandy had a fleeting



SILAGE is staging a tardy comeback on many stock farms in western Canada. Years ago, farmers who came to the prairies from Ontario, or the cornbelt, could hardly wait until land was broken, sometimes, to start planning an upright silo such as they had been accustomed to using at home. The chances are that, if one was built, it has stood empty for many years, because it was cheaper to leave it empty than to fill it. The silage on the outside freezes; and anyway, the stockman looking after 40 or 50 head of cattle found it aggravating to fight silage off a frozen wall. After a time the upright silo was abandoned.

In more recent years, some revision of opinion has been going on. Perhaps the experience of J. W. Hosford and his son Bill, on a South Edmonton dairy farm, is worth relating.

"My dad was aghast when I suggested that we should start playing around with silage again," said Bill, "but he told me to go to it, if I thought it was any good. We punched out a good trench, filled it up and fed the silage out to the dairy herd the next winter. That was some years ago; and we wouldn't be without it now. It is entirely different from our old experience of trying to grow corn and feed it out of upright silos."

Sam Gurr, Hamiota, Manitoba, has fed silage for two years. A Country Guide representative called on him some time ago to see how he liked it, as compared with hay. He had fed clover-and-oat-hay silage, corn silage and some clover hay. "I fed the silage all last winter, and none of the stock had any grain except the milk cows," said Mr. Gurr. "The milk cows got only half as much grain as usual, and I have never had them come through the winter better."

There is a good reason why the cattle did so well. More of the valuable food nutrients are saved in silage than can be saved in hay. If both feeds are analyzed on the same dry matter basis, the nutrients

unloading. He then sold them and bought one large box with built-in hydraulic lift for unloading. Unfortunately, the single box left the harvester standing in the field while the load was taken to the silo, thus slowing up the whole operation. A second box, similarly equipped, would have been too expensive, so the first one was replaced by two boxes eight feet wide by ten feet long and six feet high, which make a short, high load, easily forked off.

With this equipment the Gurr's put 20 acres of crop into the silo each day, with two men. Using clover or oat hay, the forage harvester makes a 54-inch cut and travels at four or five miles per hour. The cut feed is blown directly into the box hauled behind the forage harvester, and is then hauled to the barnyard and blown into the trench silo, which is 24 feet wide at the top, 20 feet at the bottom, eight feet deep and 120 feet long. Putting in 400 tons takes time, even with suitable equipment.

GRAZING in the FEED LOT

by RALPH HEDLIN

Livestock producers are finding trench silos easy to build and fill. Grass and legume silages have proved palatable and extra nutrients are saved



in silage would run about ten per cent higher than in hay made from the same crop, at the same time, even if the haying weather was good. Rainy weather favors silage still more, perhaps up to 25 per cent, while if the weather is very wet, good hay cannot be made at all.

The Hosfords have put up grass-legume silage when it was so wet that water was actually dripping from the hay boxes. No expert recommends making silage as wet as this, but Bill Hosford says that it made good feed. When very wet there is some danger of rotting; and it is almost sure to be a little sour. However, if it were put up as hay under such conditions, it would be badly bleached and the nutrients largely lost.

The management of forage crops for Sam Gurr's 50-head beef herd has passed through a substantial evolution since 1941, when he moved to his present farm. For three years after that he used a mower, rake, pitchforks and several strong backs to take off his grass crop. Then, in 1944 he bought a sweep and stacker, but traded it in on a power take-off baler in 1947. Two years later he traded this in on a motor-mounted baler.

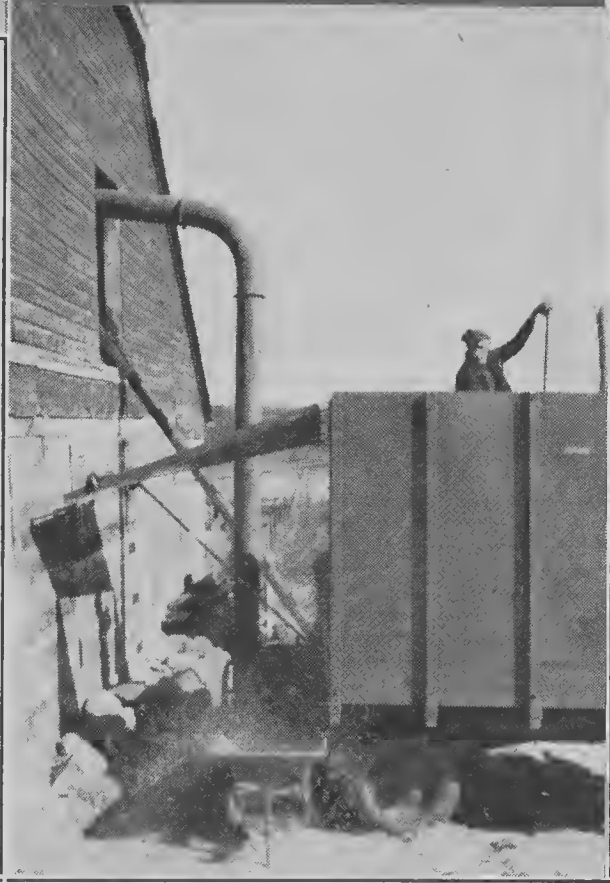
He liked the balers all right, but in 1951 decided to try silage. This meant trading his baler on a forage harvester, a chopped feed blower and two forage boxes. The latter were six feet wide, 12 feet long and five feet high, and he decided after using them that the loads were too long and flat for easy

Many farmers avoid silage, because they are doubtful about the right moisture percentage in the green crop. Around 70 per cent is recommended. In 1951, the Gurr's cut some clover on which the seed was set. According to the best advice this should have been too dry, but it made good silage. In 1952 they made silage earlier, when the clover was very lush; it, also, was making good feed, though a lot of moisture drained out.

Despite these experiences, Mr. Gurr would be the first to agree that the moisture of the green silage crop is important. When legumes are cut at the recommended stage—at half-bloom for alfalfa, between half and full-bloom for clover—they are likely to contain too much moisture. This can be reduced by wilting in the field for a few hours, or by adding enough cut hay or dry straw to take up the excess moisture. Either a grass-legume mixture, or straight grass, is not so troublesome.

EXCESS moisture can have two harmful effects. It may bring about the formation of butyric acid, which gives the silage an objectionable odor, and makes the feed less palatable and attractive. Moreover, if fed just before milking, it may taint the milk. Also, as the excess moisture seeps out, it carries valuable nutrients with it. Tests of seepage from grass silage at the University of Illinois disclosed that the seepage contained from seven to eight per cent dry matter, of which one-third might be protein. Cut at the right stage, seepage is reduced and valuable proteins are saved.

The so-called "grab test" gives a reasonably good indication of the proper moisture content. A handful of the chopped material is taken as it enters the silo, and squeezed tightly. If water can be squeezed from it, or if the silage remains in a compact ball when the hand is opened it is too wet. If no water comes out and the material breaks apart slowly, as pressure is released, the moisture content is about



Above: Mervin Gurr, Hamiota, Man., blows winter bedding into his father's barn. Left: Henry Hebert's Holsteins at St. Pierre, Man., hungrily lick up silage. Right: Emptying a trench silo at Strathmore, Alta.

right. If the silage falls apart readily when the hand is opened, it is too dry and would probably mold.

Farmers agree that if the grass or legume is on the dry side, the forage harvester should be set to make the shortest possible cut ($\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch), because short-cut feed packs more readily. Moist grass will pack if cut a little longer. If silage is not well packed, air pockets will be left and some spoilage will result.

Silage is often packed with a heavy tractor. John Murta, Graysville, Manitoba, hauls the load through the silo with the tractor, dumping it en route. He then turns around and drives back on his way to the field, and does extra tractor tramping as required. The Hosfords find they can get enough tramping with a four-wheel drive jeep. The Gurr's use a Percheron gelding. The main thing is to pack enough to force the air out. Longer cuts and more mature crop mean more packing.

Sloping silo walls make packing easier also. Another advantage of the sloping sides is that silage will not draw away from the walls as much, when it ferments and settles.

Whether to work the crop before hauling to the silo, and whether to add preservatives, are subjects for many an argument. None of the farmers called on by The Country Guide, during the past year, used preservatives and they have satisfactory silage. The Manitoba Department of Agriculture says that many farmers in

(Please turn to page 48)



View overlooking Paddle Valley, with the Liss home nestled among the trees in the right background.

POLISH-BORN John Liss, eldest of nine, who had gone to Ohio with his parents, left school at 14 and became in turn, lumberjack, office worker, book agent. In 1911, he halted his wanderings temporarily, to attend the Canadian National Exhibition at Toronto. Here, reading literature extolling the virtues of the then practically unsettled northwestern part of Alberta, he felt the urge to be a farmer. After a brief fling in real estate during the Calgary land boom, John Liss arrived in the lakes-and-hills country of the Paddle Valley, packsack on his back, and with very little else in material wealth.

Before settling permanently on a homestead, he took one last look around his adopted province. He hiked 800 miles to the Peace River, but the lure of the lonely Paddle Valley was too strong. He went back to Calgary first, but lost his savings in the "land-bust." One trip more, to the U.S.A., then John Liss gave in to the call of the Valley. In 1915, he filed on his present homestead. His father filed on an adjoining quarter. These two quarters, plus two others obtained after service in World War I, form the present holdings of the Liss farm. It is about five miles north and west of the village of Sangudo, and about 93 miles north and west of Edmonton.

Soon after settling on the land he was to farm for the rest of his life, Liss enlisted in 1915, in the Queen's University Highlanders of Kingston. Attaining the rank of company-sergeant-major, as an instructor, he was transferred to help organize and train a Polish contingent. Overseas service followed, with the added rank of battalion sergeant-major. On his return to Alberta, ex-Sergeant-Major Liss filed on his third quarter, as a soldier's grant. Later, he borrowed money from the Soldier Settlement Board to start operations. This step left a heavy burden of debt on the shoulders of the young farmer and his family for many years, and they never really drew a careless breath until it was paid in full.

In 1922, John Liss made a second cross-country trek, in which he "opened exactly 52 barbed wire gates, in thirty-below weather." This heroic journey resulted in his bringing home his bride, Mary

Paddle Valley Pioneer

The Liss family, northwest of Edmonton, successfully combine mixed farming with community service and bountiful living

by KAY BROOK

Fridel, of Barrhead, the competent, friendly and attractive chatelaine of the Liss home. She has stood by his side all the way in their long climb to success. Like any other good farmer's wife, Mary Liss has pitched in when she could, with the outside work, milking 12 cows when the children were small and her husband was away chasing the elusive nickel. In addition, she carried on her most important work, helping to raise an outstanding family of eight.

THE land on the Liss farm contains a little bit of every soil common to the area—grey-wooded, intermediate, Paddle Valley peat, sandy loam and blue gumbo. John Liss uses a slightly different technique for almost every 20 acres. However, the main soil problem in this part of Alberta is not so much wind or water erosion, as leached, infertile soil and lack of friability. More and more farmers who see the need for progressive methods are sowing clover, alfalfa, and still more clover and alfalfa, adding heavy applications of chemical fertilizer to put the land in good heart. John Liss used these methods 15 years before any of his neighbors, partly from close observation of what his land needed, partly on the advice of successive district agriculturists, on whom he relies for accurate up-to-date information.

The tame pasture is composed of brome, alfalfa, and alsike. Until now it has been divided into two parts and grazed alternately. This year it will be in four ten-acre lots, and will be grazed in rotation for a week at a time. The grain land last year yielded 45 bushels of barley and 75 bushels of oats per acre. The rotation followed is one year of oats followed by two crops of barley. The third year the barley is sown thinner as a nurse crop for either Altaswede clover, or alsike, which are grown for seed. Sometimes the rotation has been varied by the use of brome and alsike, or brome and alfalfa, which is kept for three or four years as a hay crop.

Mr. Liss tried the use of green manures twice, but did not find it practical. Once he plowed under red clover with very good results, but found it too costly. Horse manure is applied with a loader and spreader, as a top-dressing to the pastures and grey-wooded sections. Labor and time, or rather

lack of both, make this method of soil improvement also, rather an expensive proposition. From 40 to 50 pounds of 11-48-0 commercial fertilizer is applied per acre to the flat grain land. In 1952, 100 pounds per acre was applied to the pasture, with noticeable improvement in quality. On the grey-wooded and intermediate soils, 40 pounds per acre of 16-20-0 ammonium phosphate is used.

Due to the great diversity of soil types, different methods of cultivation are used. Gumbo is fall-plowed to allow frost action to mellow the soil. Cultivated with disk and rod weeder, it is sown in the latter part of May, to early oats or barley. The peat land is mostly permanent pasture. It pays off best on a mixture of brome and timothy. The sandy loam, being mostly newly broken land, goes into a clover-alfalfa, grain rotation. A tiller is used to eradicate couch grass, and a rotor rod weeder is useful for other weeds. The Liss farm carries one 102 Senior Massey-Harris tractor for all lighter work, and a recently purchased T.D.4 crawler for heavy breaking and for cultivating hilly land.

NOW that the children are mostly grown up, the Lisses do not keep dairy cattle, although one Holstein cow is kept for family milk and cream. The herd is grade Hereford, of good quality, and quality is kept up by the continual



John and Mary Liss in front of the house. Mrs. Liss holds a highly prized heirloom pewter tankard.



Teddy, John, Jr., and John Liss, Sr., by the farm truck. John, Jr., youngest of eight, is in Grade XII.

use of purebred Hereford sires. The current boss of the herd is Flying H Stanway Prince, bred by Wm. G. Lewis, Sangudo.

Baby beeves are separated as calves in the fall and started on alfalfa and brome hay, along with oat chop. They are finished toward spring on barley chop, and are marketed at about 1,000 pounds. Marketing is through the Alberta Livestock Co-operative.

In the winter, the cattle are housed in practical, economical pole sheds, onto which straw is threshed. John Liss figures that beef cattle do not need warm quarters as much as shelter from wind and snow. Winter feeding consists of red clover, alfalfa, alsike, timothy and hay, stacked with a hydraulic Farm-hand. A rack full of oat straw is before the cattle at all times.

The Liss Farm features between 125 and 145 purebred, though not (Please turn to page 95)



SANCTUARY



Top: (left) this small girl risks a sore thumb to give chickadees a nesting place; (center) boys build duck-rafts on First Lake; (right) inside the Sanctuary entrance.
Bottom: (left) what better place for a wiener roast than this?; (right) springtime view across First Lake.

WE have a sanctuary near our town, 230 acres of forest and lake, meadow and marshland, where birds, animals, trees, and flowers are all protected. It is also a sanctuary for people, a place where we may forget the cares of the workaday world as we stroll along woodland trails, amid the peaceful beauty of nature's realm. We love the place, and we'd like other communities to copy our sanctuary idea, too.

It started back in homestead times, when John Gaetz and his mother came to this region, during the Indian days of 1885. There was no town then, only a fur-trading store up the river from the hills and valleys that John and his mother found so attractive. They were warned by the handful of homesteaders already here, that spruce tree land was not good for farming; and were advised to settle on acres where aspen poplars grew. John and his mother loved the twin lakes in the valley and the towering spruces growing on the hills above the spring-fed waters. Back of the hills were flat lands clad with poplars, so the homestead couple took possession of the whole area.

"Some we wanted for farmland," John explained, "and some we wanted because it was beautiful."

He and his mother acquired ownership of 480 acres in all. Half of this they farmed successfully, but the other half they preserved in its wild state, because they were delighted with the charms of First and Second Lakes, the bubbling creek coursing down from the toplands, and the park-like forest surrounding the ponds. Almost daily they enjoyed a walk along the shores of First Lake, watching ducks, shore-birds, and wild swans thriving there.

AS the years passed, a town grew into a city near John Gaetz's holdings. His mother died and

by **KERRY WOOD**

John married a pioneer school teacher who shared his love for the farm. Townsfolk gave the beauty spot a name—Gaetz Lakes; and the region became the favorite Sunday walk and family picnic ground for successive generations of citizens. Boys roamed the paths on holidays, armed with bows and arrows and seeking high adventure. Girls went there to enjoy wiener roasts beside the lake. Skating parties were held on the frozen ponds during winter, while many a pair of young lovers roamed the rose-bordered paths every spring. John and Grace Gaetz built a new home on the hill above First

It is a place for happy kiddies and wild birds, for free enjoyment and relaxation, and above all, for maintaining the dignity and pleasure of living

Lake, with a wide path leading down through the stately trees to the shore. They always welcomed trespassers. Often the family parties or groups of young folk were invited to their pleasant home for a sociable evening, after an outing at Gaetz Lakes.

Nature students found a rich treasury of wild creatures in the little wilderness. They compiled a list of over 200 birds and more than 30 different animals that found refuge in the twin-lake region. Birds ranged from tiny ruby-throated humming-birds up to the grotesquely comical white pelicans, while animals included giant bull moose down to

the diminutive pygmy shrews, smallest carnivorous animals on the continent. Among the flowers were wild orchids called ladyslippers and medicinal plants such as hyssop and yarrow. There were white spruce trees and birches, alders and poplars, plus saskatoons and other berry shrubs and flowering bushes, like the yellow-blossomed cinquefoil.

"Make it a sanctuary," urged the naturalists.

John Gaetz replied:

"I will, if people aren't barred from coming here."

SO the Gaetz Lakes region became a wildlife preserve, enjoying that status during the declining years of its benevolent owner. After John died, the estate was bought by the government to add to nearby holdings, which featured a large health institution. For a short time the sanctuary regulations were observed because of long-standing habit. Then newcomers invaded the duck marshes armed with shotguns, while others carried weapons along the paths, to hunt for partridge and deer. And finally, the grand old forest was invaded by axemen seeking sawlogs for lumber.

The tree cutting aroused great indignation among townsfolk, who had enjoyed for so long John Gaetz's pleasant hospitality in those lovely woodlands. The government was swamped with petitions from the city council, board of trade, service clubs, churchmen, and individual citizens. Surprised to find so much public opinion against them, the government officials quickly agreed to stop their tree-cutting program at once.

Shortly after this, flames swept through the Gaetz Lakes woodlands close to town. Those who fought the blaze and kept it from reaching the stately spruces were shocked by the evil destructiveness of fire. There was a robin's (Please turn to page 41)

Mostly a Matter of Taste

PERHAPS the farmer gets accustomed to it as an occupational hazard, but lots of things about agriculture in Canada seem rather dizzy to the onlooker.

Take mustard, for instance. Alberta grows it in quantity, and of good quality. The acreage is limited, however, because of a limited market. At the same time, Canada imports over half a million pounds of ground mustard yearly, plus mustard seed! And here's a backstage secret—quite a healthy amount of that imported mustard was Canadian-grown in the first place.

"If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed . . . nothing shall be impossible unto you," were Christ's words nearly 2,000 years ago. Whether they have the right kind or not, some 400 farmers around Lethbridge, Alberta, put their faith in the little round mustard seed.

As of old, the best mustard seed comes from England and western Europe. Holland and Denmark sent over 3,000 and 14,000 metric tons, respectively, in 1951. Montana and California are large producers in the States. But Lethbridge claims to be the "mustard capital" of the world, since this one city handles more seed than any other single marketing center. It is the only Canadian center, except for a small acreage grown around Winnipeg.

Mustard is a very ancient spice, and has been used in foods and medicines since prehistoric times. Its name is a corruption of "must-seed," for in medieval times, the seeds were mixed with unfermented wine, or "must."

It is not odd that mustard should be well known. It grows almost anywhere in tropical and temperate zones, and it has a host of relatives. There are some 2,000 members of the *Brassica* family, among them radish, cauliflower, candytuft, carrots and watercress. If you count all the wild varieties, you'll get about 200 kinds of mustard alone.

Only three varieties are of any importance commercially. *Brassica alba*, yellow or white mustard, is the familiar seed. *Brassica juncea* is the

To help tickle the human tongue with spices, Alberta farmers grow thousands of acres of mustard yearly

by LYN and RICHARD HARRINGTON

brown, or the black mustard of biblical days. Oriental mustard is a yellow-seeded variety of the brown type.

"Not much of that grown here," says Mr. L. B. Knowlton of Lethbridge, who admittedly knows more about mustard than anyone else in Canada. "About 80-90 per cent is yellow mustard selling at around 6½ cents a pound. Brown mustard has a higher oil content, and so it brings a higher price from the oil expressers. But the condiment market favors the yellow. And that's where you get your volume."

THE mustard seed industry actually started in Montana, many years ago. It gradually spread northward into Alberta. By the '30's, two progressive farmers, T. G. Otto and R. A. Warren, were producing over 40,000 pounds for the Montana millers under contract. L. B. Knowlton, a partner in the George W. Green & Co., Lethbridge millers, got interested.

"That's something we ought to be handling," he urged. And this firm was the first in Alberta to contract for seed, —in 1936. Only 100 acres, mind you, but how it has grown. This year about 35,000 acres were in production under various contracts. This figure is a drop from last year's more impressive 42,000 acres and its estimated 12½ million pounds of seed.

Most of Alberta's mustard is marketed through two Lethbridge firms. Ellison Milling Co. bought out the Green plant, after the owner's death a few years ago, and retained Mr. Knowlton as manager of the hay and seed department. The other firm is the well known O'Loane Kiely & Co. In addition, some uncertain acreage is contracted to various Montana milling companies.

Mustard growing is a specialized crop, and in Canada most of it is confined to the sunny triangle of which Lethbridge is just off-center. A matching triangle in Montana makes this into a large square, where most of North America's mustard crop is grown. In view of the way wild mustard flourishes on the prairies, we wondered if it was not possible to vastly increase the commercial mustard acreage.

"Well, sure. The trouble is that the market for it is limited," said Mr. Knowlton.

"There's only so much demand for mustard, though that's increased in recent years."

Part of the increase in acreage is due to the booming interest in salads and salad dressings. And to the lowly hot dog. What would it be without a gob of bland mustard? In fact, today we are eating more spiced foods and food accessories than grandma ever dreamed of, though we don't have as many spices on our pantry shelves as she had.

Distance from a cleaning mill also is a limiting factor. Mills, which have invested in the expensive equipment necessary, like to make contracts with growers close at hand, where they can keep an eye on the progress of the crop. A distance of 100 miles or so doesn't make much difference.

IN our search for the full story on mustard, we called first on Mr. W. D. Hay, in charge of Special Crops at the experimental station outside Lethbridge. He has studied three kinds of mustard and rape seed for years, and knows both the commercial and technical aspects of their production.

"Almost all the mustard here is grown on dry-land farms, due to the fact that the mustard can survive drought, because of its tap root. But it responds very well to rainfall. Look at last year. Some growers got 1,500 pounds of seed to the acre. It has gone as high as 1,800 pounds, when heavily fertilized, but the long-time average is about 500 pounds. Crops will be heavier, that's certain, when irrigation gets to the farms around here."

Mustard seed does not require any pre-seeding treatment, having relatively few insect or bacterial enemies. The seeds are usually drilled into the ground about the middle of May, and are harvested about ten weeks later. If the seed goes into clean land, and has a good rainfall, you may expect a heavy crop. In really dry years, the yield may be as low as 200 pounds per acre, or even a failure. A mustard crop is usually followed by summer-fallow, or by a cereal crop in the farm rotation.

"Most of the mustard is grown on summerfallow, on land prepared in much the same way as for wheat," Mr. Hay went on. "The ground should be firm at the time of seeding, to make sure of germination. For the same reason, the seed should be sown 1-1½ inches deep, but not as deep as for wheat, if it is to get the moisture necessary for germination. Rows should be six to seven inches apart."

WHAT was the farmer's viewpoint? How did he look at this crop? Dale Cassidy, who farms north of the village of Chin in Alberta, explained that farmers like the crop for several reasons. For one thing, it gives them "more eggs in the basket." If one crop fails, probably some other won't. Also it spreads out the work. Mustard seeding comes just after wheat planting, and the harvesting comes just ahead of the wheat harvest. That

means not too much dependence on hired help, and a fairly continuous working program for the farmer. Another desirable feature is that the specialty crop doesn't require anything extra in the way of farm machinery.

"Some farmers put the grass-seed attachment on the drill," says Mr. Cassidy, "but a lot of us don't bother with even that. They recommend three pounds of seed to the acre, but I figure that's not enough unless you get 100 per cent germination. Myself, I just mix the seed, ten pounds to the acre—that's about 70 cents for seed—with granulated fertilizer, and drill them into the ground. Some of the neighbors use bran or cracked wheat. Then at harvest time, you just go in with the combine."

He weighed the disadvantages as well. "One thing about it—we like to



Dale Cassidy, Chin, Alta., is pleased with his profitable mustard crop.



Operators use air suction to remove all foreign matter from mustard seed at the Ellison mill in Lethbridge, Alberta.

have a good stubble on the ground to catch the snow. Mustard stubble is very brittle, shatters when you disk it, so it's not much protection to the soil. Another thing against it is the risk. If you get hail, in wheat you might lose ten per cent. In mustard you lose the works. Still, it doesn't take much out of the land, like wheat does. After a crop of mustard, you can put in wheat, and some of us find that we get a slightly heavier stand than usual."

What about the relative values of wheat and mustard crops? Was it more profitable to put in wheat rather than mustard, all other things being equal?

"I'd say mustard is more profitable," said Mr. Cassidy thoughtfully. "In 1950, I contracted for 80 acres of mustard, and I got \$6,200 out of it. The very best you can do with wheat in this dry-land country is \$60 an acre. The next year, I contracted for

(Please turn to page 60)



Shelly looked like the girl in the fairy story, that had the wand waved at her. "Look," Spud sputtered, "Gold Slippers!"

Oh, Those Golden Slippers

I WAS sitting on the fender watching Shelly comb her hair into fresh pig-tails. The sun was shimmery bright, and I was getting thirstier by the minute. I swatted at a horsefly, and looked out across the fair grounds.

"Say," I said, "have you got any old bent up quarters or worn out dollar bills you don't want?"

Shelly turned from the little mirror she had hung on the side of the truck and glared at me, the way she does when she wants to remind me that she's almost 16 and I'm only her ten-year-old sister. "Midge Adams," she said, "what did you do with that money Pop gave you just a little while ago?"

Now that was a silly question if I ever heard one. What does a person usually do with money at the County Fair? I had been on the merry-go-round once, the whip twice, had a hot dog, a popsicle, and two fluffs of cotton candy. Maybe that was why I was so thirsty. But Shelly wasn't really interested. She had just asked to be asking.

She had been acting like that all summer. I think it started about the time the girls at high school invited the boys to a marshmallow roast in June. She hadn't been a bit of help to me since. We used to have a lot of fun, collecting squirrels and frogs and things, and teaching them tricks for our animal circus. But not this summer. This summer I had to catch them, build the cages, and train them all by myself while she mooned around the house all day. There was only one thing she hadn't lost interest in. That was Curley, her purebred Hereford calf. She had fed him and babied him from the time he was born, and now he was a cinch for the blue ribbon. You'd think that would snap her out of it, but it hadn't.

I was sitting there, thinking, and watching the cars and trucks drive through the main gate, when a station wagon came easing through the traffic. It was one of those new polished wood and chrome jobs, with a horse trailer to match. I had never seen it before, but I had heard about it. It was Thad

Any number of interesting and exciting things can happen on Fair Day, and there may be more than blue ribbons to win as a little sister was to discover

by ZORA BAKER HANSEN

Stevens' graduation gift from his father. When it came a little closer, and I got a load of Thad's fancy cowboy outfit, too, I said, "Whooooee!"

Shelly turned to look. About that time he saw us. "Hi, Midge. Hi, Shelly," he yelled. "How are the trained tadpoles coming along?"

I heard Shelly mumble something about a drip, and I said, "Yeah." But we both waved at him, and he drove on over toward the corrals. When he got out to unload his horse, Sunflower, you could tell by the way he acted that he knew every girl within a mile was watching him. I always figured he was a little lame in the brain, but the high school girls didn't seem to mind. Just because he had helped win a few football games and knew how to stay right side up on a horse, and just because his father owned a ranch and a bank and a creamery or two, they all went swooney over him. All but Shelly.

I GLANCED around at Shelly about that time, and saw her watching, too. She had a funny look on her face, and it worried me for a minute. I thought she might be falling for that fancy parade outfit. But then I decided she was just looking at the horse.

I was still thirsty, and still wondering a little, when Mom came around the end of the truck. She had been collaborating, as she called it, with the florist on flower arrangement in the domestic science building.

"Better hurry, girls," she said. "The judges are about to pass out the ribbons and we don't want to miss anything."

She nudged Shelly away from the mirror, put on a little lipstick, and combed her hair. Shelly tucked the tail of her plaid shirt into her jeans. I got up, dusted off the seat of my pants, and we were ready to go.

On the way over, we passed a refreshment stand. "Aw, what's the rush?" I asked, looking at the little glass barrel of lemonade. "Mrs. Price's embroidered bedspread will win the handiwork prize, and Mrs. Simmons will get the blue ribbon for her pickled peaches. They always have—ever since I can remember."

Mom chuckled. "And even before that," she said. "And," Shelly said, not very sweetly, "I guess Genevieve Simmons will get the 4-H sewing ribbon for that yellow pinafore she made."

I was a little behind, and I saw Mom glance around at Shelly. For a minute she didn't smile. "Now girls," she said, "let's not be catty. If Ida Price's fancy work is a little fancier, and Maud Simmons' peaches a little peachier, they deserve the prizes. Besides," she said, and the corners of her eyes began to crinkle up, "we Adamses are doing all right with the ribbons, too."

Mom was right. Mom was pretty near always right. I knew she wasn't envious or anything. She would rather fool around with her dahlias and mums, or help with the cattle, than can peaches. Not that there's anything wrong with her cooking. At least it tasted mighty good to us after we had been out pitching hay to our herd of thoroughbred cattle. And as for ribbons, it was like Mom said, we got our share.

The domestic science exhibits were always in the big building in the center. Pop was standing in the shade near the door, talking to the secretary of the Breeders' Association. We went on in because Mom wanted to take a last look at her work. Everything seemed to be holding up (Please turn to page 69)

Illustrated by Gordon Collins



This picture shows a portion of the perennial border at the Morden Experimental Station, which provides a summer-long riot of beauty on the spacious grounds of the Station.

A WELL-PLANNED and well-kept perennial border offers interest and enjoyment to the keen gardener the whole season through. When winter's snow has vanished, the first shoots push through the soil; and long after the early autumn frosts have blackened the tender annuals, there is color in the hardy flower garden.

The observant gardener will recognize, and welcome the delicate-colored peony shoots, the bleeding heart, delphinium and many other kinds that start into growth as soon as the topsoil is warmed by the spring sunshine. By carefully selecting the varieties of these perennials, the gardener can have plants in bloom, of one kind or another, from late May until mid-October.

In most perennial borders in the prairie regions there is a flare-up of color in June and July, and a slackening off during the month of August, followed by a colorful display of autumn bloom. The most commonly grown perennials bloom in June and July. The tulips, bleeding hearts, iris, peonies and delphiniums are all over and done with by August. Lythrum, phlox, day lilies and scabious extend the season until the michaelmas daisies, hardy chrysan-



These Holland-grown tulips grace the grounds of the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa.

Hardy Perennials

for your garden

themums, heleniums, sunflowers and others provide the color in the late flower garden.

There is really no need to go to any great length in preparing the soil for a perennial border, as most prairie soils are adequately fertile. However, if barnyard manure is obtainable, a covering a few inches deep can be spread over the border and deeply dug in. This work is best carried out in the fall, leaving the surface in a rough state over winter. The action of frost and wind will pulverize the soil, making it more friable. By the end of April it can be levelled down and made ready for planting.

A group of shrubs, or a fence on which a native grape, or other hardy climbing plant is growing, will provide an excellent background to show the perennials off to good advantage. A distance of five or six feet should be left between the fence and the nearest perennial plants, otherwise the grape or shrub roots will penetrate the border, sapping the much-needed soil moisture from the perennials.

To arrange the plants to the best advantage, it is wise to draw up a rough planting plan, having in mind: (1) height of plants; (2) season of bloom; (3) color. Tall subjects are planted toward the back of the border, intermediate ones in the middle section, and dwarf ones along the front. This is a general rule, but it may be varied by placing an occasional tall plant toward the center. Early flowering kinds should be planted adjacent to late ones in order to avoid, as far as possible, bare patches late in the season. Color harmony is not of prime importance; a good general rule is to place the scarlets toward the center of the border, and to avoid having the pinks in close association with the orange shades. However, where the colors are well mixed there is rarely a discordant note.

SPRING planting is preferred for most perennials, except lilies, peonies, iris and bleeding heart; but even with these, spring planting is satisfactory if the stock is dormant.

When planting is completed, spacing the tall varieties 2½ feet apart and the others at proportionately lesser distances, the whole area should be given a light hoeing. Watering will not be necessary unless the soil is very dry. Regular cultivating will prevent the surface soil from cracking, and also keep down weeds. The first summer will not see

If you have been envious of your neighbor's perennial flower garden, here is the way to get one of your own, as told by

H. F. HARP

the plants well enough established to flower satisfactorily; in fact, the peonies will take several years before typical blooms can be expected.

Staking is necessary for some of the tall subjects, especially the delphiniums, which are easily damaged by wind and heavy rains. Stout sticks should be placed in position around the plants before there is any danger of damage. Peonies, also, will need staking and tying, if the heavy flower heads are to be kept from coming in contact with the soil.

In the fall, when severe frost has destroyed the last of the blooms, it will be time to think of giving the border a covering of straw. This will add greatly to the comfort of the plants over winter.

In the prairie regions it is considered best to leave the dead tops on the plants until spring, as they help trap the winter snow. In windswept areas this snow covering is most beneficial, because bare ground will thaw and freeze in the spring, heaving the young plants out of the ground. Flax straw has been found better suited than other kinds, as it gives better insulation and does not blow around.

In the early spring the border should be cleared of straw, and the old tops cut off to ground level, gathered up and burned. Where there is a danger



Delphiniums provide a beauty peculiarly their own.

of late spring frost, it is good practice to allow the straw to remain for a week or two longer on the early starting varieties, especially bleeding heart, as these plants quite often will suffer severe damage from spring frost.

A dressing of ammonium phosphate (11-48-0) at the rate of two ounces per square yard may be dug into the border in early May.

A VARIETY of perennial plants can be raised from seed sown in open frames, in May or June. The soil should be made porous, by adding sand, leaf soil or peat. The seed is best sown in rows a foot apart, transplanting the tiny seedlings when they are large enough to handle. Shading will be necessary for a few days, until the plants recover from the shock of transplanting. The following spring they can be set out in their permanent quarters in the perennial border.

Varieties that can be satisfactorily raised from seed, include delphinium, lupin, pyrethrum, columbine and baby's breath. Iris and peonies are examples of perennials that are best increased by division of the root, as they do not come true from seed, and seedlings take several years to come into bloom.

(Please turn to page 35)



Good Irrigated Pastures— and how to get them

Returns can be high, but so are costs, and an irrigated pasture is likely to be unprofitable if good management is lacking

by H. J. HARGRAVE

Good irrigated pastures (left) may carry up to two or three head per acre, as compared with up to 60 acres per head (right) on irrigated range land.

IN recent years the plant breeders have made noteworthy progress in developing suitable forage mixtures for irrigated pastures. Among the grasses that are coming to the fore are orchard grass, several species of fescue, brome, intermediate wheatgrass. Russian wild ryegrass, reed canary grass, timothy and Italian ryegrass. Among the legumes being used are white Dutch clover, ladino clover, red clover and alfalfa. A grass-legume mixture is essential for top production, and the legume seed should be inoculated.

Suitable pasture mixtures vary with different localities. At Lethbridge a mixture of orchard grass, creeping red fescue, brome, and white Dutch clover is recommended. However, this mixture may not be suitable in areas outside the chinook belt. Hardy strains of orchard grass and ladino clover are in the making, and it may not be long before they are available.

There are a number of points that successful operators are particular about when it comes to planting pastures. The seed bed should be firm—firm enough so that the wheel marks of an automobile will not sink more than one to one and one-half inches. Grain stubble is ideal—if it is clean. A companion crop of grain may be useful, if the pasture is planted on bare ground that is liable to blow. Seed in the top half-inch of soil: when seed mixtures are worth up to \$20 per acre it pays to have all the seed germinate. Take the companion crop off early and then irrigate to allow the pasture to get well-rooted before freeze-up. Keep in mind the fact that a pasture may be down for seven to ten years, whereas the companion crop is only a temporary short-term proposition.

Before planting high-priced pasture mixtures, consultation with the nearest experimental station or extension service will be time well spent. New equipment especially designed for pasture seeding has recently been made available, and experience to date indicates that its use may result in better germination of grass and legume seed. The shallow-seeded pasture mixture should be kept moist until germination is complete and the young seedlings are well established. Sprinkler irrigation equipment is ideal for this purpose if timely rains do not occur soon after planting. Such equipment has also been used by many operators to apply soluble fertilizers uniformly over a pasture in a few minutes.

EXPERIENCE has pointed to the fact that fertilizers are essential for top pasture production. One operator who applies phosphorus in the spring and nitrogen in the summer maintains that a dollar's worth of fertilizer returns \$7 worth of beef. Every bit of manure available should be applied and scattered well with a harrow.

Several fundamental factors apply when it comes to properly managing a pasture. Ample green-leaf space is necessary for healthy plants with reserves

stored up in the root system. Constant, close grazing defeats the process that manufactures plant food. Successful pasture operators have found that it pays to divide the grazing area into three or more fenced pastures, so that each one is grazed seven to ten days, and then allowed a period of three weeks to a month for irrigation and regrowth.

When the grass gets ahead of the stock a mower should be put into the field. If there is not enough cut feed to make hay grass or grass silage, some operators leave it in the swath, or simply run a side-delivery rake over it. Stock that won't eat it standing up will frequently take to it quite readily when it is lying down. A "clumpy" appearance in a pasture indicates that it is time to put the mower to work; and it is useful to follow it with a harrow to scatter the droppings.

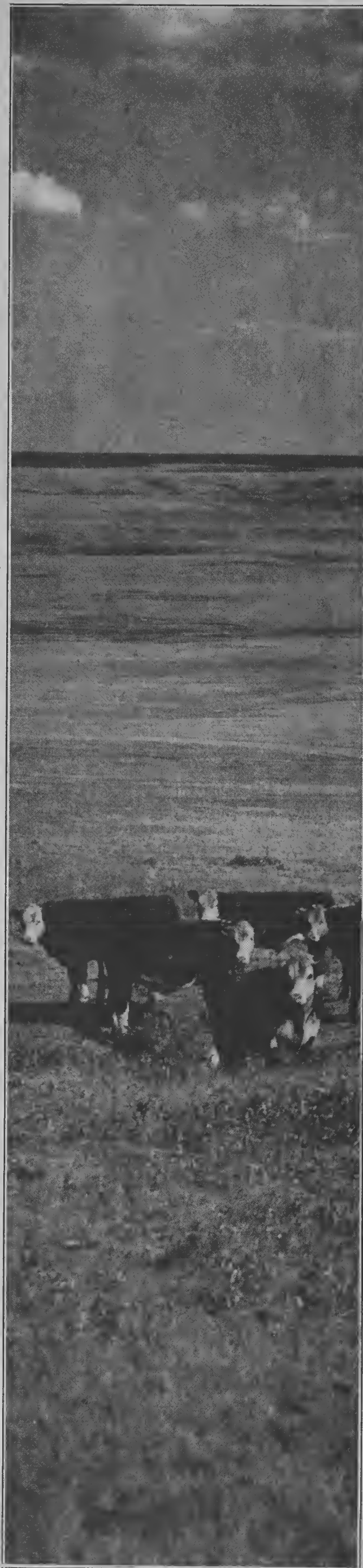
Recent pasture experience has shown that high daily gains may not be obtained on lush growth, unless some dry roughage is fed with the pasture. Roughage in the form of hay, or straw helps to overcome "washy" growth and materially reduces the incidence of bloat.

Many operators are feeding grain on pasture. Young cattle tend to grow, rather than fatten, and a supply of grain fed on the grass will enable them to reach killing condition by the end of the grazing season. Rates of grain feeding have varied from three to 15 pounds per head daily, and the concentrate can be either hand-fed or self-fed. Cows and big steers usually obtain a satisfactory degree of finish on pasture without the need of a supplement.

BLOAT is one of the headaches that irrigated pasture operators have to learn to live with. Most of the bloat occurs when the legume comprises more than a third of the pasture mixture. Try to keep it down below this point. If there is alfalfa in the pasture, use the mower, with the cutting bar raised somewhat so the alfalfa will not be so handy to fill up on. Some operators mow a few swaths through the field the day before the stock are turned in and rake it into swaths when partially cured. An ample supply of bonemeal will also help. If convenient, as with dairy cows, feed roughage in the morning before the animals are turned into the pasture. As a rule, bloat is more of a problem early in the season than in the late summer and fall months. Eternal vigilance is necessary, especially when there is heavy dew or rain; and it is well to keep a length of hose or a trochar handy.

Experimental evidence and practical experience have established the fact that a combination of cattle and sheep will enable more complete utilization of irrigated pasture than is the case when either class of stock is grazed alone. Hence, if fences are satisfactory there is no need for separate pastures for both classes of stock. However, ewes with lambs should be kept away from cattle until the lambs are a few

(Please turn to page 64)



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Washington Letter

by MAX FREEDMAN
Washington Correspondent,
The Manchester Guardian

THE new Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Ezra T. Benson, has sounded a note that has not been heard here for many years. Unlike some of his Cabinet colleagues who have come fresh to their jobs, Mr. Benson has been a student of agricultural policy for many years, a practising farmer, and a national leader of the co-operative movement. He believes that it is an essential part of the democratic process to have farm policy settled by the method of public debate, rather than by dictation from Washington. Consequently, he has invited farm leaders and individual farmers to give him the benefit of their judgment in formulating national policy. His frankness has already provoked criticism, but the country knows that in Mr. Benson it has neither an oracle, nor an enigma. He compels respect, by the integrity of his judgment, even when one dissents from his opinions.

One of his decisions has certainly aroused much criticism. He has announced that imports of dried whole milk, dried buttermilk and dried cream will be shut out of the United States after April 1. This trade, worth more than \$8 million, affects Canada, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, New Zealand and Australia. His action has been denounced as a violation of the spirit of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act. The three months import quota at present, is 6.5 million pounds of dried milk; 2.5 million pounds of dried buttermilk; and 35,000 pounds of dried cream. These quotas will not be renewed after April. The present quota on foreign cheese expires on June 30, and it is an open question whether it will be renewed.

Mr. Benson defends these restrictions, reluctantly, on the ground that Congress has ruled against farm imports where prices are being heavily supported by the Administration. It is perhaps more nearly accurate to say that the secretary, on this issue, has been forced to yield to Congressional pressures more responsive to local needs than to the national interest. Mr. Benson has promised to administer the legislation for support prices at 90 per cent of parity, 1910-1914 base period, even though he is convinced that support prices should be more flexible, less mandatory, and much lower.

SENATOR AIKEN of Vermont, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, has scheduled hearing to begin April 7, on farm imports and exports. The first witness will be Mr. Benson, and it will be easier to judge his long-term program after he has made his statement.

Meanwhile, it is worth remembering that the day Mr. Benson took office the Administration owned 37 million pounds of butter, 7 million pounds of cheese, and nearly 56 million pounds of dried milk. The Commodity Credit Corporation owned more than a billion dollars of farm products. These figures are very much in the mind of Congress, as it watches the campaign for a more vigorous import policy.

Mr. Benson's own views have been given repeated public expression. His general philosophy is that farm prices should respond to changes in demand, rather than lead to artificial production

based upon high support prices. It follows, therefore, that a support program, in his judgment, should be used not to guarantee profits to the producer, but "to prevent farm prices from ever approaching disaster levels." If supports are to be continued beyond 1954 at 90 per cent of parity, then a system of rigorous acreage control will almost certainly have to be imposed. Since he is persuaded that "rigid price supports for perishables cause trouble," he is reserving complete freedom of action beyond the present parity law, which extends to March 30, 1954.

His primary objective, in wheat marketing, is to reduce the annual subsidy which now has to be voted by Congress. The subsidy last year amounted to something like 63 cents a bushel or \$150 million a year. Mr. Benson has supported efforts to reduce this bill by bringing the new price range in the International Wheat Agreement somewhat closer to the parity figure. He has conceded, however, that it is wholly unrealistic to expect Great Britain, or any other importing country, to buy its wheat at a price dictated by the domestic requirements of the American parity system.

In testifying to the agricultural subcommittee, of the House Committee on Appropriations, on March 26, Mr. Benson submitted a revised budget, calling for \$70 million less in annual appropriations than were requested in the original 1954 budget, and \$60 million less in loan authorizations. These reductions only partly result from Mr. Benson's program; they also reflect President Eisenhower's drive for economy.

A GUIDE to future marketing policy was provided on March 20, by John H. Davis, director of commodity marketing and president of the Commodity Credit Corporation in the Department of Agriculture. He announced that the Department intends to explore the expanded use of marketing agreements, the practicability of a two-price system, the feasibility of price insurance, and the possibility of using guaranteed loans.

The Department is worried about contracting markets for the two major crops of cotton and wheat. Cotton exports during 1952-53 will be about 4 million bales as against 5½ million bales last year. Wheat exports for 1952-53 will probably fall to 325 million bushels instead of reaching the 1951-52 figure of 475 million bushels. Mr. Benson has already told a congressional committee that the Department is ready to consider bilateral contracts with various importing countries, if it should prove impossible to renew the Agreement.

Advocates of Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act, up for renewal soon, claim that the protected position of the farmer stands in direct conflict with the national need for a freer import policy. Farm organizations reply, with strict accuracy, that the special needs of agriculture have been recognized since Cordell Hull started the reciprocal trade program in 1934. They are organizing their strength in Congress to ensure that no present safeguards will be lost without equivalent concessions being granted.

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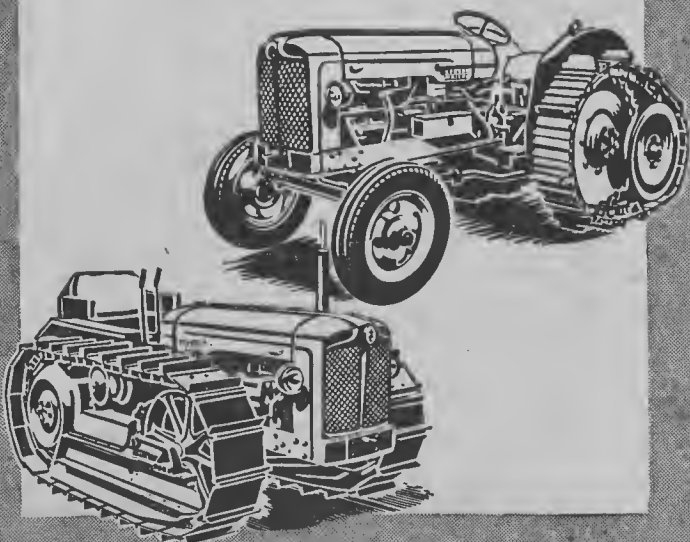
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News of Agriculture



At the meeting of the International Wheat Council, Washington: (left to right), E. McCarthy, Australia; True D. Morse, United States; T. P. Huisman, the Netherlands; F. Sheed Anderson, permanent chairman; G. H. Janton, France; and Mitchell W. Sharp, Canada.

Insects Cost Money

IT is always difficult to estimate accurately the losses that have been suffered from farm pests. These range from weeds to animal and plant diseases, and injuries to plants and animals which prevent them from growing normally. Nevertheless, such estimates as can be safely made are useful.

Recent estimates of losses from two insects in the United States point up the seriousness of all food wastages, which are said to equal the product of approximately one cultivated area out of every five in the U.S. The wheat stem sawfly is familiar to prairie farmers. Many millions of dollars have been lost in years prior to the development of Rescue, and later Chinook, sawfly-resistant wheats. It is estimated that in 1952, this small insect was responsible for losses in North Dakota and Montana alone, amounting to 17 million dollars. It was present in 32 per cent of all North Dakota wheat fields surveyed and 34 per cent of the Montana fields surveyed. Estimated loss was 5.5 million bushels in North Dakota and 250,000 bushels in Montana. The insect is spreading, and outside of these two states was found in 122 previously uninfested counties in South Dakota, Wyoming and Nebraska. In all, the wheat stem sawfly is believed to have destroyed nearly eight million bushels of food grains last year.

The U.S. also has an annual corn crop of approximately three billion bushels. The European corn borer destroyed 53 million bushels of corn or 1.7 per cent of this huge crop in 1952. Of this amount, more than 38 million bushels were lost in the corn belt alone. Within the corn belt, Iowa lost 21 million bushels, while losses in Illinois are estimated at nine million, Minnesota seven million, and South Dakota six million bushels.

U.S. Cattle Numbers

MOST farmers recognize that livestock numbers run in cycles of different lengths, depending on the type of livestock. A typical cattle cycle is about 15 years and economists and statisticians say that the early stages of the cattle cycle are characterized by a more rapid percentage increase in the number of young stock, than in the number of cows. Later in the cycle, cow numbers rise rapidly, and the numbers of young stock increase only in proportion to the larger calf crop.

USDA officials believe the second

stage has been about reached in the present cycle. A farm inventory of livestock on January 1, in the U.S. indicated 93.7 million cattle and calves, about seven per cent or 5.9 million head above January, 1952. Hogs were down 14 per cent to 54.6 million, and sheep and lambs were down slightly over one per cent.

Last year officials report an increase of cattle and calf numbers for the fourth successive year. These are now 17 million over the low in 1949 and eight million above the peak of the previous cycle, in 1945. During 1952, milk cows increased for the first time since 1945. The largest gains were in beef cattle, which were up 4.6 million head, or close to nine per cent. Beef cows took the lead in numbers, so that the present record number is 41 per cent above 1949.

Co-operative Institute

AT the 25th annual meeting of the Manitoba Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited in Winnipeg, a proposal was advanced for the establishment of a college for co-operative studies, to be located near Altona, Manitoba. J. J. Siemens, a leading Manitoba co-operator, has offered to donate 60 acres of his farm there. The institution would be known as the International Co-operative Institute. The proposal was approved by the meeting and present plans are to raise \$30,000 immediately from 300 life members at \$100 each. Life members would control the institute which, it was suggested, should teach modern business techniques and co-operative philosophy, in three to six months courses, on elementary and advanced levels.

Margarine and Vegetable Oils

IT is probable that all four western provinces will provide some protection for the dairy industry, against dairy substitutes made with the use of vegetable oils, instead of butterfat. The Hon. D. A. Ure, minister of agriculture for Alberta, told the National Dairy Council, meeting in Edmonton in mid-March, that Alberta would provide such protection on a one or two-year basis; and the Hon. I. C. Nollet made a somewhat similar statement for Saskatchewan. Neither province would interfere with the present status of margarine. The Manitoba legislature voted to retain the color ban on margarine, and it is expected also to prohibit vegetable oil substitutes. British Columbia, likewise, pro-

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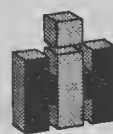
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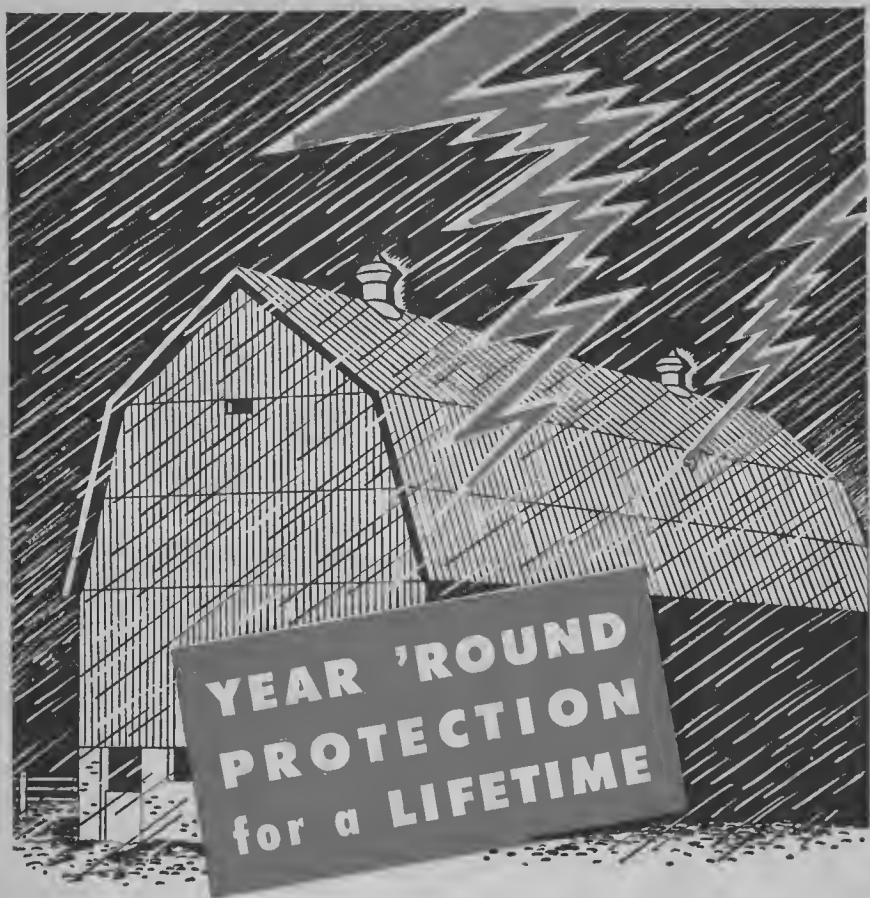


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poses to ban these substitutes, but not to touch margarine.

Ontario has had a Vegetable Oil Products Act, which has never been proclaimed. The new minister of agriculture, the Hon. Fletcher Thomas, introduced a bill to amend this Act, at the present session of the Ontario legislature, which was passed after further amendment. Four years ago Ontario banned colored margarine. The amendments to the Edible Oil Products Act were vigorously opposed by the newly organized body called The Institute of Edible Oil Foods, which has carried large display advertisements in the Ontario daily press. Dairy substitutes legislation also has been passed in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Quebec is certain to protect her dairy industry, and P.E. Island likewise.

Churchill on Agriculture

SPEAKING recently to the annual dinner of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales, at which more than 1,000 persons were in attendance, the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, said of the importance of British agriculture:

"There is no question of choosing between food production and exports. We must have both, at the highest level, driven forward with fierce energy. But we are resolved to proclaim that the home-grown food of Britain must, with great urgency, be raised by 1956 to 60 per cent above what it was before the war.

"That is a conviction which all political parties share, and all Britons are determined to sustain. We have already raised it, by more than 40 per cent. The job must be finished, and finished soon. That is by no means the end."

A recent FAO report, on the agriculture of some European countries placed the United Kingdom fourth on the list in size of farm output, and despite a relatively low production per acre, highest in net output per man.

France accounts for about twice the farm output of Britain, and about a quarter of the production of Europe, as a whole. Next come Italy and Western Germany, followed by the United Kingdom. These four countries, together, produce about three-quarters of the total agricultural production in Europe. Britain, with about 1,197,000 people active in agriculture, has a net output per head valued at about £550, which compares with the European average of about £200.

Europe to Save Food Dollars

IN mid-March, 16 European ministers of agriculture met in Paris, to plan a vast co-operative endeavor, similar to the Schuman plan for the joint production and marketing of coal and steel in several countries. On the second day, the number was raised to 17, when a Spanish representative joined the discussion.

If the plan is developed, trade barriers would be eliminated and the agriculture of all countries involved, could produce for a mass market. Initially, it would be applied to certain basic products, such as cereals, tobacco, fruits, vegetables, sugar, milk, meat and perhaps wine.

Countries represented were: Britain, Austria, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Sweden, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, West Germany, Italy and Portugal.

Co-op Wins Tax Appeal

THE Sointula Co-operative Store Association, near Vancouver, operates a general store. Because the community has no bank or post office, the store takes in the surplus money of the community for safekeeping, without interest or fee. Each customer has a little deposit notebook, in which deposits and withdrawals are entered.

The Department of National Revenue ruled that over a four-year period, 1946-49, annual amounts ranging from \$89,300 to \$130,400 should be regarded as capital, and therefore enter into calculations for income tax payments. The store appealed to the Income Tax Appeal Board, and won its appeal on the ground that while it acted as a banker in a limited sense, it did not do so for reward.



Prof. O. L. Symes, who, on July 1, will succeed Prof. E. A. Hardy (retiring), as head, Department of Agricultural Engineering, University of Sask.

Rabies Spreads

RABIES, the virus disease of warm blooded animals, which is transmitted by biting and affects the brain, with fatal results within a few days, first broke out in northern Alberta, at Fort Fitzgerald, June 8, 1952. Since then it has spread southward, reaching Picture Butte and Burdette by February 25. On March 19 an infected coyote near Brooks attacked a plane used to destroy coyotes, and was shot. During February, the Veterinary Research Laboratory near Lethbridge, examined the brains of 110 animals, both domesticated and wild, ranging from cats and cows to ravens, muskrats, coyotes, wolves, bears and moose. Of this number, 36 of the animals gave indication of rabies, including 3 cats, 11 dogs and 1 cow, as well as foxes, coyotes, wolves, lynx, bear and moose.

Dr. E. E. Ballantyne, Provincial Veterinarian for Alberta, has suggested that rabies might be in Alberta indefinitely, due to the fact, that much of Alberta is wooded and it would be impossible to eradicate the disease from among wild animals.

Rabies committees have been set up in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Because rabies is fairly prevalent in North Dakota and Minnesota, all dogs inside a 12-mile belt along Manitoba's international boundary will be vaccinated, and control measures carried out in seven rural municipalities along the North Dakota border in south-eastern Saskatchewan.

Chilled Washers

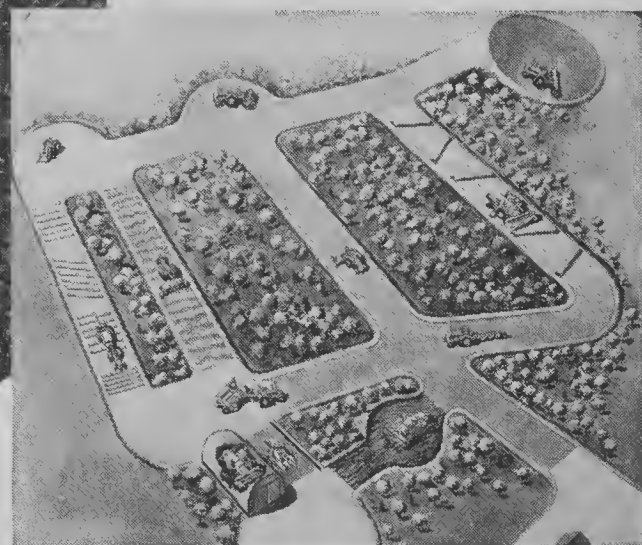
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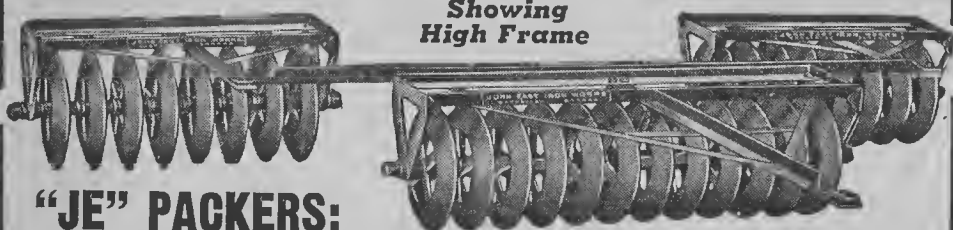


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Get It at a Glance

Canadian livestock—Australian wheat—food, and other items

Australia's estimated average wheat yield for the 1952 crop is 17.8 bushels per acre, which exceeds the prewar average by 5.9 bushels and equals the previous record in 1949-50.

Canada had five per cent fewer hogs on December 1, 1952, than the year previous. The total of 5,237,000 hogs represented an increase of seven per cent in western Canada and a twelve per cent decrease in eastern Canada. Only Saskatchewan and Alberta showed increases. By provinces Ontario had 1.8 million hogs, Alberta 1.26 million, Manitoba 1.07 million, Quebec 1.04 million, Saskatchewan 560,000, P.E. Island 72,000, New Brunswick 71,000, British Columbia 54,000, and Nova Scotia 53,000. There were 22 per cent fewer sows expected to farrow between December 1 and May 31, than last year, a decline of nine per cent in the West and thirty per cent in the East.

J. Roe Foster, formerly superintendent of the experimental substation at Regina, Saskatchewan, was recently named to succeed J. G. Davidson, retiring superintendent of the experimental farm at Indian Head.

Because the Netherlands have too much pork fat, and the surplus can no longer be sold as luncheon meats to the British market due to import restrictions, Dutch manufacturers of margarine are now required to include four per cent of lard or pork fat in margarine. Meat processors in the Netherlands may sell 143 pounds of fat to margarine manufacturers, for every 220 pounds of hams processed.

The Twentieth Century Fund has recently estimated that the average U.S. worker could buy at least four times the goods and services with an hour's work in 1947, that could be obtained with the same labor in 1847.

The world is slowly falling behind in its race between food and population. The USDA recently reported that "the 1952-53 production of major commodities, which contribute about 80 per cent of the total food supply, is estimated at three per cent above 1951-52 and nine per cent above the prewar average, while world population has increased to about 13 per cent above prewar."

The first complete bulk cargo of wheat ever to leave Queensland, Australia, consisted of 10,000 tons loaded for the United Kingdom, in the second week of January. Only 20 wharf laborers were required, as compared with 120 to load a similar cargo of bagged wheat.

Membership in the Council of Canadian Beef Producers (western section) now includes ten major western cattlemen's organizations: The Alberta Cattle Breeders' Association, Alberta Provincial Cattle Breeders' Association, British Columbia Beef Cattle Growers' Association, Canadian Aberdeen-Angus Association, Canadian Hereford Association, Canadian Shorthorn Association, Manitoba Cattle Breeders' Association, Saskatchewan Cattle Breeders' Association, Saskatchewan Stock Growers' Association and Western Stock Growers' Association.

In 1952 the U.S. consumed 8.5 pounds of butter per capita and 7.7 pounds of margarine. In 1951, the figures were 9.6 pounds of butter and 6.5 pounds of margarine; and before World War II they were 16.7 pounds of butter and 2.9 pounds of margarine.

A world wheat crop estimated at 7,235 million bushels is a record, and compares with the previous record of 6,610 million in 1939. The present figure indicates about a half more wheat available for export and carry-over than in February last year. Supplies of wheat in the four major exporting countries were estimated at 1,522.4 million bushels.

Average monthly farm wages for male farm help in 1953 are estimated at \$122, without board, and \$87 with board. These figures compare with \$110 and \$75 as in 1951. In each of the last three years the average was lowest in Manitoba and highest in British Columbia.

About 90 Saskatchewan Community Forums were conducted in February and March, with an average attendance of approximately 100, to obtain farm and town opinion on rural problems, to be presented as briefs to the Saskatchewan Royal Commission on Agriculture and Rural Life.

Flood damage in the Netherlands is estimated at \$250 million. Over 100 breaks in the dykes led to the loss of 50,000 cows, pigs, horses and sheep, and the flooding of 330,000 acres of arable and pasture land. Wheat production will probably be down 12 per cent and potatoes 10 per cent. Crop losses for the 1953 season are estimated at 15 per cent of the barley land, 20 per cent of flax land, and 20 per cent of land used for sugar beets.

The December livestock survey indicated that milk cows in Canada were up six per cent, to 3,019,000, over a year ago, the increase being about one per cent in the four western provinces and eight per cent in the eastern provinces. Sheep and lambs were up nine per cent over a year ago with eleven per cent increase in the West and seven per cent in the East. Horses decreased to 1,135,800, a decrease of seven per cent in the East and nine per cent in the West. Total Canadian cattle numbered 8,916,300, of which 3,801,000 were in western Canada, or eleven per cent more than in 1951.

A British Dairy Shorthorn cow, Boxgrove Barbara 4th, has produced 25,794 pounds in a complete lactation of 454 days. With a test of 4.86 per cent fat, yielding 1,254 pounds butterfat, she produced 1,043 pounds fat in 305 days. Both figures are believed to be butterfat records for any British Dairy Shorthorn.

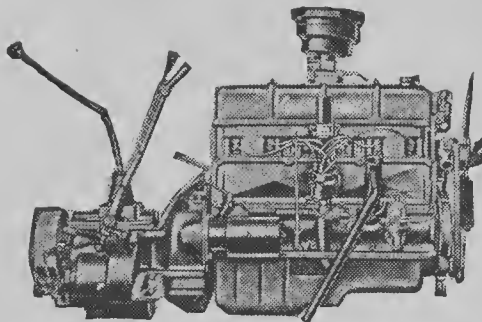
Zenda Bountiful, a British Friesian cow, at Kidlington, Oxford, has produced 1,799 pounds of butterfat in 365 days, from 33,184 pounds milk, testing 5.42 per cent on the basis of 20 per cent over-run. When turned into butter this record would be the equivalent of 2,116 pounds of butter, making Zenda Bountiful the first cow in the world to produce 2,000 pounds of butterfat in 365 days.

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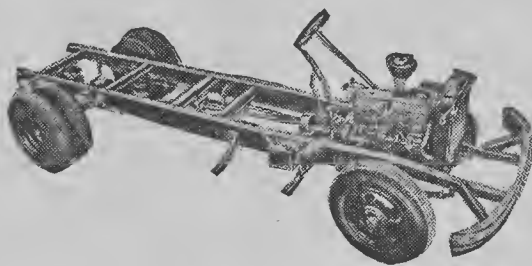
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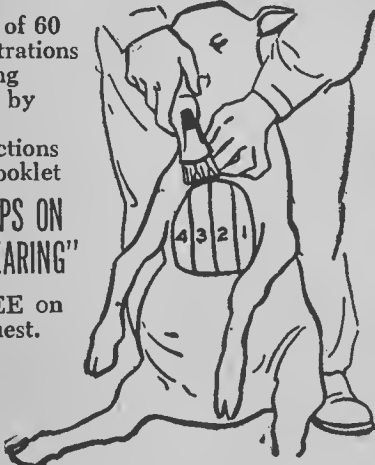
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These two high-producing Holsteins in the Williams' herd were out for exercise every day this winter, in stormy and mild weather alike, and stayed healthy.

He Makes Dairy Cattle Pay

One of Saskatchewan's top dairymen says there is no secret about profitable, high milk yields

MAURICE WILLIAMS of Nutana, Saskatchewan, says there is no secret about producing milk. He should know because in 1952 he coaxed his Holsteins to produce the best average butterfat total of any Saskatchewan dairy herd under Dairy Herd Improvement Association testing. "Breed it in; then feed it out." That's his formula and it was successful enough to get his 16 cows to average 489 pounds of butterfat from 13,742 pounds of milk.

Although most of his cows are registered purebreds, the monthly milk cheque pays his bills. This is the reason he has set his sights on heavy milk production at the lowest possible cost. Winter milk is his direct goal, because he believes it is profitable milk.

"Cows freshening in the winter produce more milk every time. With no flies to chase them and no hot weather to depress them, there is nothing to take their minds off the urgent business of filling the milk pails."

Maurice is small of stature, but a wiry, restless cattleman, with an eager enthusiasm for every phase of dairy production. This keeps him perpetually brimming over with new ideas, and with stories of old established and well-tried practices that have marked some well-remembered milestones on his farm just south of Saskatoon.

His active mind peers inquisitively into the darkest corners of one dairy problem after another, wondering if there are better methods he hasn't yet discovered. He is constantly going over accepted practices, to see if they can be exchanged for methods that will mean more money on the profit side of the account at the year's end.

"A farmer has to keep experimenting," he admonished us, with a gleam in his eye; and then hurried on to describe his latest change in cow management.

"My cows are tied in stanchions; and last year, when the records were made, the herd was never out of the stable during seven long winter months. It worked fine, but this year I decided to try them with a little more exercise and fresh air. They go out every day now; blizzard, storm or sunshine, it is all the same. Believe it or not, production seems to be even better. I wonder if there is milk in that fresh air?"

He is always looking for ways to feed the cows a better ration at less expense, and is highly pleased with this winter's program.

"I had a good crop of sweet clover last summer, which means that the cows are getting better feed this winter. I figure that the clover doesn't cost me a cent, because I would have to fallow the barley fields anyway, and I grow the clover instead. We used to call sweet clover a weed. It sometimes turns pretty black when it is cured, but the cows apparently don't know it's a weed. They produce for all get-out when it's in their ration."

Maurice grew silage crops at one time, and plans to put in a trench before long and use silage again. But brewer's grains are cheap in Saskatoon and he uses some of this, with a little molasses along with hay and grain, to keep them producing.

"Too much brewer's grains isn't good for them, so I am feeding less of it this winter than last even if it is a cheap feed. I skimp on molasses as well; two quarts of it mixed with two quarts of warm water and sprinkled over the grain is all that 25 milking cows get this winter."

Maurice gives his cows roughage twice a day. Sweet clover and oat bundles put through a cutting box, half-and-half, make up the morning ration, while at night they are given a big feed of uncut brome. Barley and oat chop, and bran and oilcake meal, are fed at milking time: he goes easy with the more costly concentrates, however, and no more than 12 pounds daily is given to any cow in the barn.

Maurice establishes the importance of calves on the dairy farm with one short, emphatic statement: "Today's calf is tomorrow's cow." He lavishes every care he believes necessary on them. Still, his methods have to be practical; and since selling milk is his business, he is well aware that every extra pound of milk fed to calves means one less pound of milk for sale.

That is why the calves get whole milk for only two weeks after birth. Then they are swung over gradually to a mixture of three parts warm water and one part new milk until they are about three months old. For another month, both warm and cold water are available to them, until finally, they can look after their own water needs from the self-waterers.

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Figures show that 40 out of 100 pigs born never live to reach market. Now many of these can be saved with

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By this method, he saves some extra milk to sell, but he must be sure to keep the calves vigorous and healthy. Good brome hay and calf pellets are kept right in front of them from the time they are a few days old, so they will start nibbling early. By the time they are a couple of months old, they have developed a hearty appetite for hay and concentrates; and only as many pellets are put in front of them twice a day as they will clean up completely.

A little cod-liver oil daily keeps the calves in condition. Kept in separate pens to keep them from sucking one another, the calves can be caught in stanchions, and the cod-liver oil easily placed right in their mouths. When they are five months old, a less expensive mixture of oats, barley and bran is substituted for the calf pellets; and this keeps them healthy, growing and not over-fleshed.

Maurice is "breeding in" that milk production by using good bulls and raising his own heifers. His active mind wouldn't let him do anything else but keep experimenting to find better methods of "feeding it out." It is safe to say that he will be producing still more milk at still less cost in the next few years.—D. B.

Iodine for Pigs

IF iodized salt could be kept in front of brood sows the year round, there would probably be no trouble with hairlessness in new-born pigs. But sows are usually without iodized salt, so the common method used on many farms to prevent hairlessness or goitre, is to mix one ounce of potassium iodide in one gallon water and feed one tablespoonful daily to each sow, for at least two months before farrowing.

It is only a start, however, to have healthy pigs born. If the young litter cannot get out to pasture to root through sods and earth, it is liable to be set back by anemia. This is easily avoided by placing a little reduced iron—about as much as can be held on a dime—on the tongue of each pig when it is a couple of days old or younger, and continuing the treatment once a week until four treatments have been given.

Cobalt for Cattle and Sheep

THE main mineral deficiencies among livestock in western Canada are phosphorus, calcium, common salt, and, in addition, iodine for pregnant animals. Animals must get these minerals if they are to be healthy, but even when they receive sufficient of these there are other minerals that might be lacking in their rations. These are called trace elements; and cobalt is one of the most important.

The cobalt content of feed varies considerably from year to year and from one locality to another. For this reason, some experiments in which cobalt has been added to the ration have shown that the livestock needed the cobalt, while others gave no proof of any benefits. One series of feed tests was carried out over four consecutive years, in which fat lambs were fed grass hay and grain. The addition of cobalt to the mineral mixture resulted in a 15 per cent greater gain in one year. In the other three years, no difference was evident when cobalt was fed.

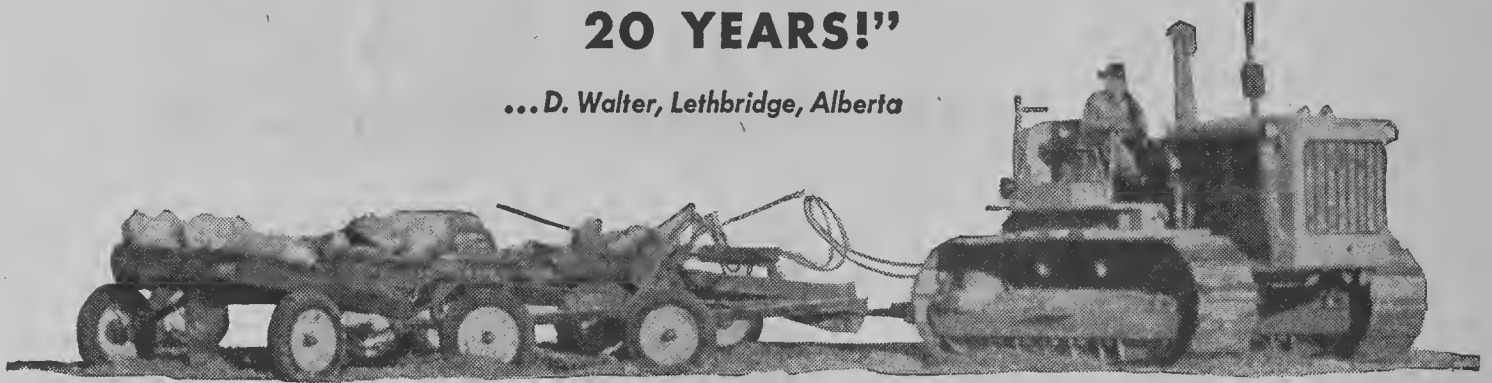
When the rations were analyzed, it was found that the cobalt content of



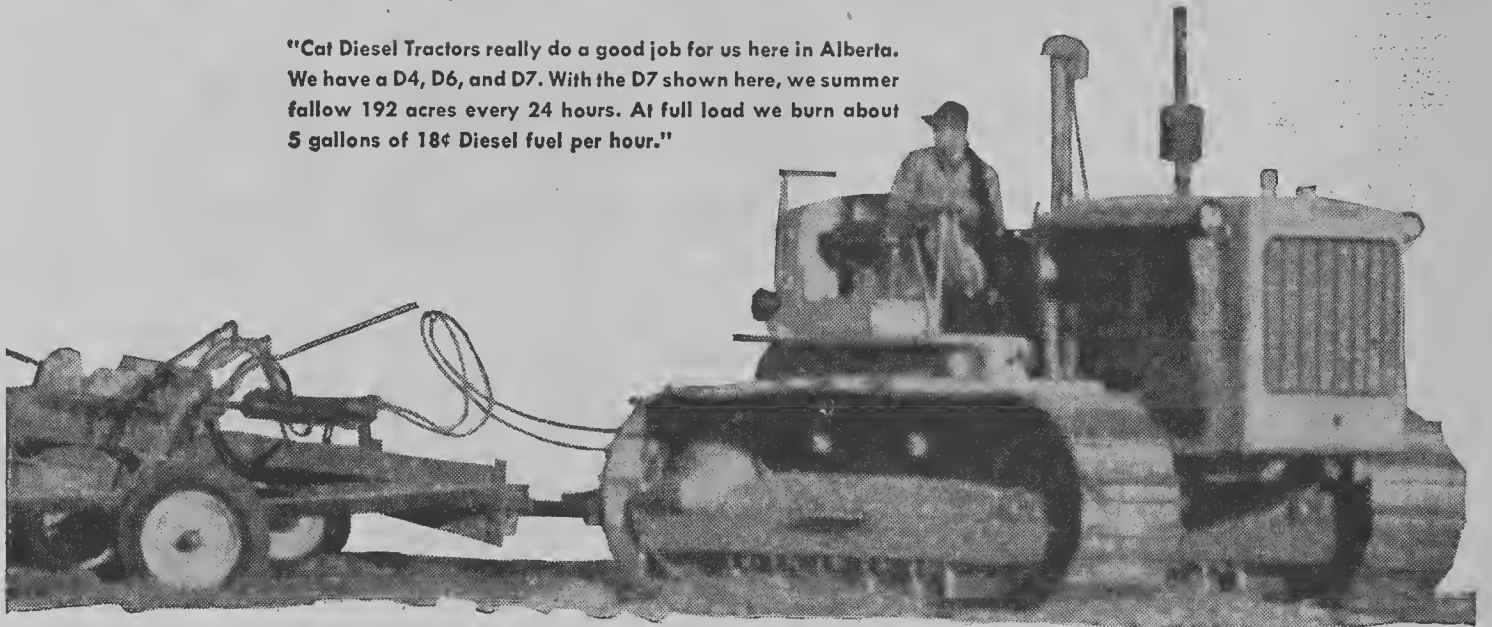
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the feed used in the year that a response was obtained, was much lower than that of the feeds used in the other three years. Legume hays contain more cobalt than grass hays, and in some years the cobalt content of feeds is greater than in others. It is obvious, then, that farmers need not expect increased gains every year that they feed cobalt to sheep and cattle. However, since the cost of adding cobalt to rations is insignificant, the Lethbridge Experimental Station recommends that cobaltized salt (which is colored blue) be fed to sheep and cattle. Pigs and other non-ruminating animals do not require cobalt.

Feed for Nursing Pigs

MANY pig troubles begin when pigs are from three to ten weeks old. At that early age, the little pigs get hungry for some solid feeds. If special feed is not given them in their own creep, they will be into the sow's trough eating eagerly and perhaps filling their tender stomachs with coarse oat hulls. A pig's stomach is extremely delicate and easily disturbed, until the pig is 12 weeks old. Oat hulls are one of the feeds which will upset them.

Irritated tissues will mean enteritis in many cases. Consequently, young pigs should not be given feed containing more than 25 per cent oat chop.

It is a good idea to nail a board across the corner of the pen to keep out the sow; and to place a dish of fresh cow's milk in front of the young pigs. A few handfuls of coarse porridge (rolled oats) can be placed in another dish to help start them feeding. Gradually they can be changed to boiled whole wheat or barley, and then to commercial pig starter, or to regular feed.

Pigs need water and green alfalfa. Water with the chill removed is better given twice daily. If alfalfa is given once a day just as it comes from the stack, the pigs will eat the leaves.

Follow a Dairy Plan

MANAGING a dairy herd without keeping production records is like trying to drive to a distant destination without a road map. Approach to the goal will be slow.

Higher milk production is one of the aims of every dairyman; and in Alberta, average milk production of 280,000 dairy cows is estimated to be 5,600 pounds. A few of the cows in Alberta are being tested—so their owners can tell if they are milking well enough to pay their way, and the 2,000 cows under the Provincial Cow Testing Service, averaged over 9,000 pounds each. They produced about 320 pounds of butterfat, compared with an average of 200 pounds for all the cows in the province.

It shows that when herds are on test, herd owners get to work and make their cows produce. The result is usually higher profits. R. P. Dixon, supervisor of dairy cattle improvement in Alberta, points out that the first rule of good dairying is to know your cows. Without records, this is impossible. Intelligent feeding, good herd management, and a sound breeding and selection program, all call for the keeping of production records.

Dairy farmers in Alberta who are interested in putting their herds on test, should write to the Dairy Branch, Department of Agriculture, Edmonton.

Decide Which Ewes Are Best

IT is easy to discover which are your best ewes, the ones that, like high-producing dairy cows, are paying their way. Then you can decide which ewes to select as mothers of the ewe lambs you want to keep for flock replacements.

A simple scoring system has been put into use in many Wisconsin flocks for this purpose, and it requires the sheep man only to weigh the fleece of each ewe and keep a record of it. Then, in the fall, the lambs are weighed, and a certain number of

points given for each pound of wool and for each pound of lamb.

Records are kept of the scores made so that each ewe can be given an index number or value. At any time the owner can see at a glance the lifetime production of each ewe just as any dairyman can check the production of any cow in his herd. Then the flock owner can make an accurate guess as to which lambs will make the best mature ewes for the flock. The method is so successful that the number of Wisconsin flock owners using it jumped from 40 in 1950 to 70 in 1952.

Spring Is Lambing Time

THERE is no brighter or friendlier symbol of spring on the farm than the bleat of a new-born lamb, and the innocent curious stare of the wondrous youngster as it peers around its mother's leg at an intruding stranger. Its huge ears and inquisitive eyes and wobbly legs give it, for all the world, the appearance of a cuddly creature that would make a wonderful pet. The harsh, ultimate end of these animals is hard to imagine in early April.

Nevertheless, lambs are raised to be sold and they must be healthy, to be profitable. First job at lambing season is to be sure you have time to give the flock the care they will need. Have pens ready for the ewes as they lamb; and as a final measure, it is often wise to crutch the ewes. Crutching will pay off, with more lambs saved, and a higher quality wool clip. Up to lambing, ewes must be handled gently, but crutching is worthwhile. It means removing all wool from the udder, the belly area immediately in front of the udder, between the hind legs, and over the tailhead. These crutchings are usually dry and clean, and can be sold as locks and pieces rather than as dirty tags.

Lethbridge reports that crutching makes assistance easier to ewes undergoing difficult lambing. It reduces the number of sore eyes among the lambs and cuts down lamb losses from sucking on dung tags, or sweat locks.

Creep feeding will mean faster-growing lambs, at small cost. An area can easily be fenced off in the pen, so that the lambs can be fed grain in

a spot beyond the reach of the ewes.

If you want top prices for market lambs in the fall, the male lambs will have to be castrated and all the lambs docked. This is usually done when the youngsters are 10 to 14 days old. Sharp knives, or burdizzos, are often used, but a newer method has been introduced from New Zealand during recent years. Called the "elastator method," it requires a pincer-like tool to expand a special rubber ring. This ring is applied around the scrotum above the testicles for castration, or on the tail, for docking. The ring constricts and cuts off the circulation. The tail, or scrotum, will drop off in about three weeks.

Lambs on which the elastator is used show signs of intense pain for about half an hour after the operation, but once this is over the lambs recover more quickly than when the knife is used. The job can be done by one man, using the elastator.

Stiff-lamb disease, another problem of sheep raising, may appear when the lamb is from one to eight weeks old. The symptoms are reluctance to stand, stiffness, staggering, and a humped appearance. Paralysis appears in severe cases. There is no fever or loss of appetite. Adequate exercise, and the addition of one-eighth to one-quarter pound of wheat germ meal to the daily grain ration of the ewe, before she lambs, will tend to prevent the appearance of this disease in the lambs. If the disease does strike the flock, a veterinarian should be called.



April brings melting snow and green grass and new lambs.

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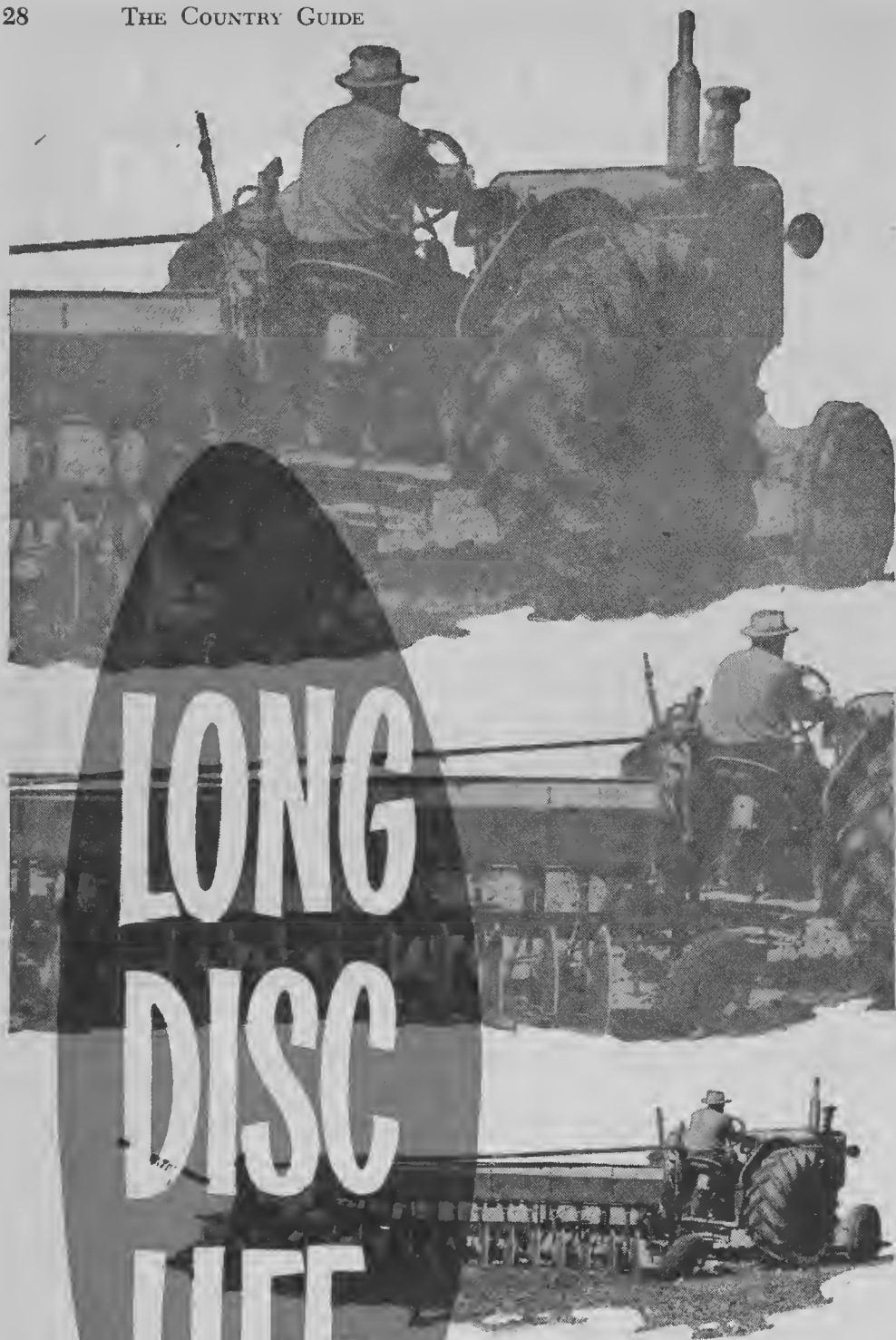
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FIELD

A New Prairie Pasture Grass

Easy to establish, winter hardy, drought resistant and of high feeding value, Russian wild rye may be what the prairie farmer needs

by R. E. McKENZIE



Russian wild rye is typified by tall seed stalks and dense basal growth.

FARMERS and ranchers may soon be growing a new grass which promises to revolutionize pasture production in western Canada. The new grass—Russian wild rye—a native of the Russian steppes, was introduced by Experimental Farms Service many years ago. It was tested on a number of stations in western Canada, but no one paid much attention to it for a long time.

Gradually some of its better qualities began to come to the attention of research workers. They began to notice that it was hardy, that it never suffered winter injury and that it could stand dry weather. Instead of drying up and turning brown in early July, Russian wild rye stayed green well into midsummer. It also recovered very quickly after being cut or grazed; and, in this respect, it seemed to be better than other grasses commonly grown for pasture.

Chemical analyses of Russian wild rye showed that it had a high protein content in the spring, just as other grasses do, but that it kept this high level of protein all through the season—even over winter—while most other grasses dropped off in protein content by early summer. This indicated that Russian wild rye might be valuable for late summer pasture and for fall and winter use.

Early reports in Canada and the western States suggested that Russian wild rye probably would be most valuable under very dry conditions, in the same general area where crested wheatgrass had done so well. It could be grown in conjunction with crested wheatgrass to fill in the dry summer period when the latter goes dormant.

About 1946, however, Henry Stelfox, forage crop specialist, Lacombe Experimental Station, began trying Russian wild rye on the black soils in the moister areas of Alberta. His experience soon led him to believe that Russian wild rye might be better than anything then available for farm pastures in the parkland areas. It seemed that its region of adaptation was by no means limited to the drier areas. Indeed, its amazing ability to produce an aftermath following grazing or cut-

ting, was more pronounced than on the dry prairies.

In 1950, Russian wild rye was seeded on irrigated land at the Swift Current Station, along with five other grasses, to find out whether it might have a place under irrigation. When the first results were compiled in 1951, the data showed that it had produced more dry matter, more protein and more sheep days of grazing per acre than any of the other grasses. In 1952 it slipped to second place, having been surpassed by intermediate wheat, another new grass that we may hear a lot about in the future. For the two-year period, however, it still stood head and shoulders above such grasses as crested wheat, brome, reed canary and timothy, and was about equal to intermediate wheatgrass. It would seem, therefore, that Russian wild rye may fit in from the native ranges to the highly productive irrigated pastures. Its exact area of usefulness still remains to be worked out, and it will take several years to do this under practical farm conditions.

A program with this objective in mind is being started in 1953 by the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture. The Department will establish a number of pasture demonstration projects throughout the province. These will be operated in co-operation with livestock producers, and will be under the direction of agricultural representatives. The Department will supply seed, fertilizer, fencing and scales for weighing, while the farmer will supply the land and livestock, and keep the records of production.

The principal object of these projects is to demonstrate the returns obtainable from good pasture management and the use of cultivated forage crops. In these demonstrations Russian wild rye will be one of the grasses tested. The results should give further valuable information about its production under a wide range of soil and climatic conditions. The Department is also making seed available to agricultural representatives for less precise types of pasture demonstrations.

With all its good points Russian wild rye has some faults. One is that it is strictly a pasture grass and not suitable for hay production. Its leafy growth is produced close to the



A seed crop at the Experimental Station, Swift Current, Sask.

ground, and there are few stems. It is, therefore, very difficult to cut with a mower. When it was first tested by experimental stations it was grown for hay production in comparison with other grasses and showed up poorly. It is only when it is grazed by animals that its high yielding ability is apparent.

Because it has so much low, leafy growth, there are normally very few seed heads produced. At first it was thought that the seed production problem would prevent Russian wild rye from ever coming into general use. This problem is gradually being overcome. Many experiments have been conducted to determine the effect of fertilizers, row spacings, spring burning and irrigation treatments. With the exception of row spacings, most of the results have been negative. It is now generally felt that if it is grown in rows, spaced from 36 to 42 inches apart, fairly good seed yields can be depended on. Usually the first seed crop will not be obtained until the third year, but in some cases fair seed crops have been harvested the second year after planting. Harvesting is best done by swathing and picking up with a combine, as the seed shatters very readily when nearly ripe.

In 1950, the Swift Current Experimental Station distributed several hundred pounds of seed to selected growers in Saskatchewan and Alberta. From this distribution, some 30,000 pounds of seed were grown in 1952. It is believed that most of this seed was readily disposed of in western Canada and the United States. American seed houses are reported to be selling Russian wild rye for \$1.50 per pound, and are unable to fill the demand.

While the full story about Russian wild rye remains to be learned there is every indication that it will play a very important part in improving the cultivated pastures of western Canada. A definite trend toward the greater use of forage crops in western agriculture appears to be under way; and better grasses such as Russian wild rye are going to help speed up this development.

(Note: R. E. McKenzie is director, Plant Industry Branch, Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture.—Ed.)

Nitrogen for Yield

A DEFICIENCY of nitrogen can cut yields of grain or grass in half. The fact that many of the soils in western Canada are deficient in nitrogen makes this of more than casual interest.

It is recognized that grasses are heavy nitrogen feeders, and C. H. Anderson, senior agronomist, Experimental Station, Beaverlodge, Alta., has recently demonstrated that seed yields can be increased by applying nitrogen fertilizers. Strips were fertilized in a four-year-old stand of brome grass using 66 pounds of ammonium nitrate (nitro-prills) per acre, and it was found that the yield was increased by 47 pounds per acre, from a 57-pound yield on the unfertilized check. An application of 132 pounds per acre increased the yield 113 pounds compared with the unfertilized field.

The same experience is reported with creeping red fescue. Unfertilized portions of a field yielded 200 pounds of seed per acre; 132 pounds of am-

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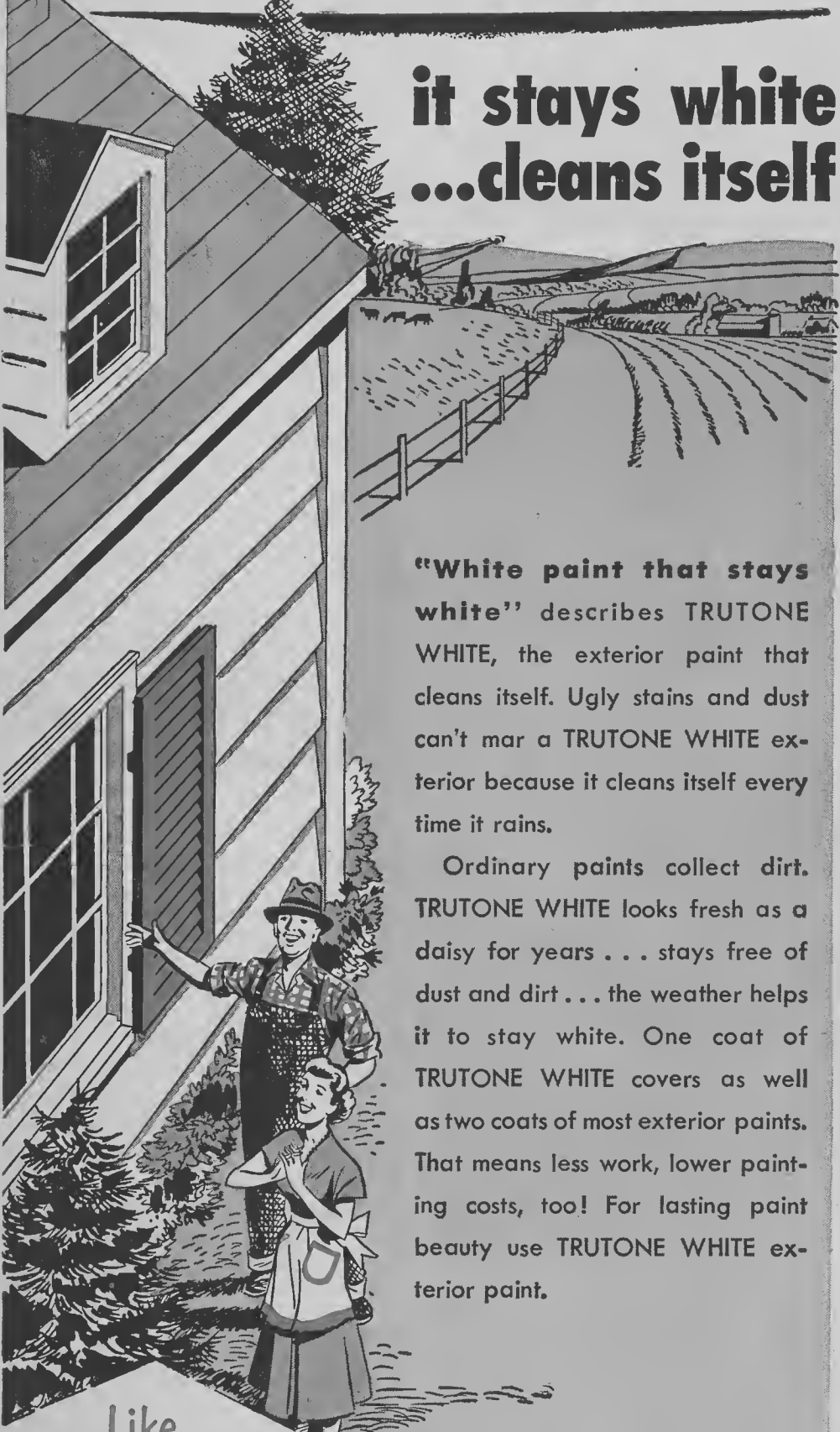
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monium nitrate applied in the spring increased the yield by 189 pounds; the same fertilizer applied at the same rate the previous fall increased the yield by about 200 pounds per acre.

The fact that grasses are heavy nitrogen feeders is also partly responsible for yields on grass sod often being disappointing. The best way to get a good crop on land that has been down to grass for some years, and is then broken, is to apply an ammonium nitrate fertilizer.

The effectiveness of nitrogen was demonstrated most clearly at the Beaverlodge Station; a four-year-old stand of creeping red fescue was broken in early May last year and worked down and seeded to wheat. Ammonium nitrate fertilizer was applied to the field at the rate of 100 pounds per acre, with unfertilized strips being left; the unfertilized strips yielded 4.4 bushels per acre and the fertilized part of the field 16.0 bushels. The addition of a few dollars' worth of fertilizer made the difference between a crop failure and a profitable crop.

Similar results were gained by adding 80 pounds per acre to a flax crop on brome grass sod. The yield was increased by 7.0 bushels per acre; the addition of fertilizer increased the farmer's returns by about \$20.

Fertilizer also is useful on summerfallow and stubble grain crops. The Saskatchewan Fertilizer Advisory Council, under the chairmanship of Dr. John Mitchell, Soils Department, University of Saskatchewan, says that 11-48-0 is the best general fertilizer on summerfallow and is often as effective on stubble as 16-20-0. The former is recommended at 35 to 40 pounds on summerfallow and 60 pounds on stubble; the latter is effective on stubble crops, where moisture conditions are good, when applied at about 75 pounds per acre. The Manitoba Fertilizer Board makes similar recommendations; they recommend 16-20-0 for use on stubble crops rather than 11-48-0.

There is no doubt that, especially in moist years, the addition of fertilizer can increase crop profits.

Planting Quality Seed

THE Plant Industry Branch of the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture is going to make a survey of the seed that farmers of that province put into the soil this spring. If the results are anything like those gained in Alberta four years ago a concentrated effort toward improvement will be made.

In 1949 a drill survey in Alberta in which 2,000 samples were taken, produced 51 per cent reject seed. The rejections by municipal districts ranged from a low of 16 per cent to a high of 72 per cent; the main cause for rejections was wild oats in the seed. Six per cent of the samples contained Tartarian buckwheat, a noxious weed that is extremely difficult to eradicate once it becomes established.

On the basis of drill samples taken over the past four years, R. L. Pharis, supervisor of crop improvement, Alberta Department of Agriculture, estimates that only one out of every four Alberta farmers is planting good seed. In most cases the fault lies in weed seed content, though in 1939 seed was found that had a germination of as low as six per cent.

Mr. Pharis suggests that most farmers are close to a seed cleaning plant and can improve their seed through cleaning. If they wish to buy registered or certified seed it is readily available. In order to facilitate purchase of good seed the Canadian Wheat Board has recently announced that farmers whose quota is still under 15 bushels may make an over-delivery of not more than 100 bushels of wheat, oats or barley, to apply on 50 bushels or less of registered or certified seed.

Summerfallow Seed Bed

THE view is widely held that it is important to get out with the drill as soon as the first spring operation is finished on the summerfallow. H. A. Friesen, Experimental Station, Scott, Sask., says that over the past ten years, early spring cultivating, with seeding delayed for ten days, has increased the average yield of wheat by 1.3 bushels, barley 2.9 bushels, and oats 5.4 bushels, when compared with cultivating immediately prior to seeding the summerfallow.

Faulty spring seeding practices may lose moisture that has been carefully conserved the previous year. In the Scott area, as in many others, periods of low rainfall and high winds are common in April and May. The surface of bare, unworked summerfallow may crack and dry out, and soil may drift.

Summerfallow should be worked as early in the spring as possible, even if this means working around low areas. This early tillage, using either the duckfoot cultivator, or the spring-tooth harrow, will break the surface crust and prevent deep cracks forming and, if the soil is moist, will leave it lumpy.

The cultivation should be no deeper than is necessary to leave the soil surface lumpy, and to kill annual weeds; the loosened soil will dry out. The field can be left a week or more before seeding.

Seeding Through Stubble

IN many areas, several years of big crops, resulting in heavy trash cover, have eclipsed the constant threat of soil drifting. A combination of unprotected, dry, pulverized soil and high winds, could do sudden and irreparable damage to many fields.

The difficulty of seeding through trash may overshadow its importance. Intent on investigating the problem of seeding through trash, the Experimental Station, Lethbridge, Alta., has done extensive testing of recently developed seeding machines.

The combination of disk tillage and a press drill has been found satisfactory for stubbling-in on trash covers from crops of 30 bushels or less. Heavier trash may interfere with drilling, and result in an uneven start for the crop. The one-way disk with seeder attachment will handle about the same amount of trash, but a good packer has been found necessary to ensure uniform germination. Care must be exercised in packing heavy clay soils, when they are moist, or puddling may result.

A re-designed hoe drill is now on the market. This machine has been used successfully on fields from which 40 and 50-bushel crops have been harvested, even when the fields have

been worked with subsurface cultivators. Where the soil is loose and the trash very heavy, a rotary harrow, or a trash mat or treader, may be required to compact the soil and break up the trash.

Blade seeders have given excellent results in areas where there are few perennial weeds. If noxious weeds are present, additional tillage may be required. Particular attention to the depth of seeding is necessary with a blade, and packing is considered advisable on all but the heaviest soils.

Heavy, unspread straw swaths will reduce yields with any seeding method. At Lethbridge the reduction in yield on the swath-covered areas averaged 2.2 bushels per acre, for all methods. If a straw spreader or chopper was not used last fall, cross cultivation, or the use of a trash mat or rotary harrow, will spread the straw and permit a good job of seeding.

FOR the last three years the Experimental Station, Swift Current, has been comparing the press drill, the double-disk drill, the one-way disk seeder with packer, the disker-seeder with packer and the deep-furrow drill. Yields following these methods for three years, have averaged 25.0, 24.2, 25.1, 22.1 and 22.1 respectively.

These results do not show a great advantage for any one system. For the past three years, moisture reserves at Swift Current have been good, and a fair amount of rain has fallen during the growing season, and it is possible that on different soil types and under less favorable moisture conditions, the results may vary considerably from those obtained during the past three years.

Know Your Weeds

KNOWLEDGE of weeds can reduce the number of field operations and so cut farm costs. There is little purpose in late fall working to kill annual weeds if the frost will soon destroy them; perennials or biennials, on the other hand, live through the winter, and it may be that the best time to cultivate them out is in the fall.

An annual weed normally germinates in the spring, and, if undisturbed, produces its seed by fall and dies naturally when caught by fall frosts. An annual weed may become a winter annual if it germinates in the fall and is fortunate in its location, or meets a mild winter; an annual growing well south may regularly survive the winter and continue growth in the spring. If annuals can be induced to germinate before winter, they will normally perish before spring.

Biennial weeds typically start growth early enough in the summer to provide themselves with a strong taproot and a rosette of leaves before winter. These carry them through the winter and provide a food reserve for the flower stem that comes up the second spring. A broad-sheared cultivator is an effective implement for their eradication.

No simple spring or fall operation will eliminate such perennials as the Canada and perennial sow thistles. Summerfallowing, cultivation and herbicides are usually quite effective, but it is important to know enough about the life history of each weed to judge the proper method of eradication.



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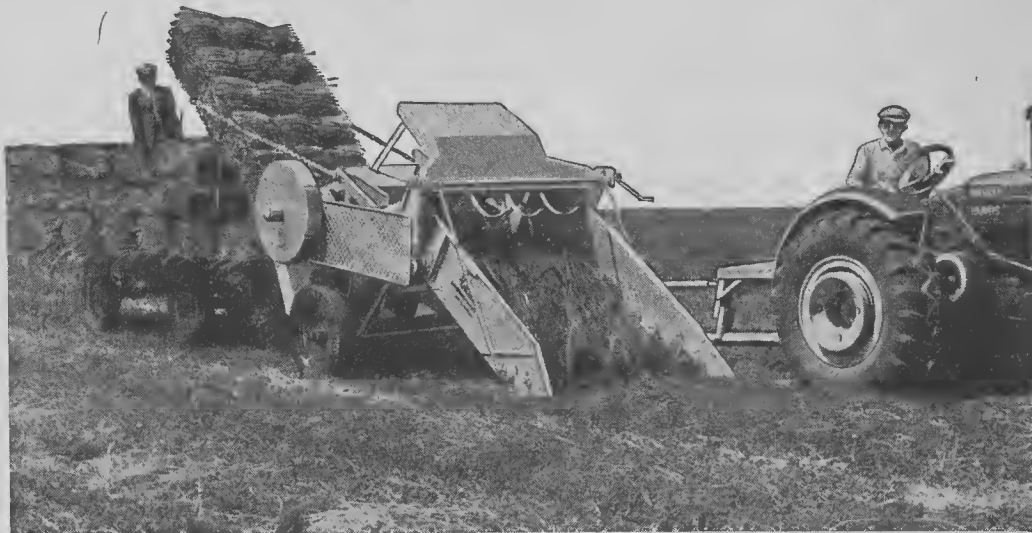
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Paul Jodoin, son of a Quebec orchardist, demonstrates his machine which not only cleans and polishes, but automatically grades and wraps apples in cellophane, ready for packing in boxes.

Seed Flats for Early Gardens

ENTHUSIASTIC gardeners often prefer to grow their own bedding plants, as well as some plants for the early vegetable garden. The commonest and most convenient method, as a rule, is to use flat, shallow boxes called seed flats. These can be made up at home from scraps of lumber, using smooth, inch or three-quarter inch boards for the ends and half-inch for the bottom and sides. Generally, flats are approximately four inches in depth over-all and approximately 12 by 18 inches. Since it is generally advisable to transplant the seedlings at least once, into other flats, before transplanting out-of-doors later on, it is convenient to have the dimensions of the flats in even, rather than odd, inches, such as 12 by 18 inches rather than 11 by 17 inches. This makes it easier to space the transplanted plants conveniently two inches apart each way, with the outside row one inch from the edge of the flats.

Ordinarily, flats are merely filled with soil to within half an inch of the top and levelled. Then, one-quarter of an inch of screened soil is put on top and the surface firmed down. The seeds are sown broadcast and covered again with screened soil. Professional gardeners, however, know that unless great care is taken, many plants are lost. Consequently, only sterilized flats and sterilized soil are used. If a good soil is mixed with about one-third sand and the flats filled to within one-quarter of an inch of the tops of the flats, both soil and flats can be sterilized by pouring very hot water over the surface. This will kill most of the harmful organisms, according to Dr. A. P. Chan of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, but the soil must be left to dry, until it can be handled conveniently. If only small quantities of soil are involved, putting it in the oven for 30 minutes, at a temperature of 180° F. will sterilize it.

When dry enough to seed, put one-quarter inch of sand over the soil, broadcast the seed and, if possible, cover it with a thin layer of peat, which should be very fine, to lie closely on the seeds. The peat is especially useful in watering, because

when it is thoroughly wet it turns black, and when there is the least drying out, it turns a light brown, which is an indication that water should be put on again.

Care must be taken that the flats are not kept too damp. Drainage should be provided by boring a few holes in the bottom of the flat and covering these with small stones, or a bit of broken flower pot.

Sask. Gardeners' Guild

WHEN two gardeners meet they always have plenty to talk about. Perhaps that is the reason the Extension Department at the University of Saskatchewan organized the Extension Gardeners' Guild a year ago for the gardeners of the province. As of March 1 this year, the membership stood at 472. D. R. Robinson, Extension Horticulturist, explains the idea this way:

"Scattered throughout the province are many enthusiastic gardeners who do not have an opportunity of joining a horticultural society. The Gardeners' Guild was established primarily to provide some measure of service for these individuals. Judging by the many favorable comments from members, the Guild is serving a useful purpose. Members who join within the next few weeks will receive the regular mailings."

A membership fee of one dollar lets you in. For this you receive a bulletin, leaflet or news letter, by mail each month for ten months in the year; and these contain information relating to ornamental shrubs, flowers, fruits and vegetables. Why not risk a dollar and see what you get?

Named Saskatoon Varieties

J. A. WALLACE and V. Chanasyk report from the Experimental Station at Beaverlodge, in the Peace River area, that the Station is introducing two strains of high-quality, native saskatoons this year. They are being called Pembina and Smoky, because it was in the region of these rivers that the original selections were discovered.

The Beaverlodge Station has been testing strains of saskatoons for many years. Thousands of prairie residents have occasion to know the pleasant

flavor of saskatoon berries, but too few have enjoyed the flavor and appearance of the good strains developed at Beaverlodge.

The Station has found that when spaced six to eight feet apart and the soil kept cultivated, maximum fruit quality is secured. "Planted in this manner," the horticulturists at Beaverlodge say, "the saskatoon will produce an attractive, loose hedge or screen, providing a profusion of colorful bloom during May. It is also valued for ornamental planting; and when grown in windbreaks, the abundant fruit attracts a wide range of bird life during autumn and early winter."

Due to the difficulty of propagating the saskatoon by budding or grafting, the new strains will come as seedlings of the original selections, which have been propagated vegetatively for seed purposes. Beaverlodge has found that 85 per cent of the seedlings retain the high quality of the parents.

The fruit of Smoky is large, fleshy and round, and the clusters are medium in size. Flavor is unusually sweet, but mild. The bush is high and spreading, and root sprouts are produced freely.

Pembina is also large and fleshy, but slightly oval, and the clusters are fairly long. The flavor is full, sweet and tangy; the bushes upright, vigorous and productive, but comparatively few suckers are produced.

Lethbridge Tomato

IF you would like a small quantity of seed, of a new early variety of tomatoes introduced this year by the Lethbridge Experimental Station, it is available free by writing for it. Last year, this Station introduced Earli-north, which is best suited to the foothill and northern areas of Alberta. Early Lethbridge, this year's introduction, is a selection arising out of the same cross between Farthest North and Polar Circle, which was made about 15 years ago. Both varieties will set fruit at temperatures lower than normal for tomatoes.

Early Lethbridge produces good-sized, smooth, well-colored fruits, from a medium-sized, bush-type plant. The plant does not require staking and will fruit about 60 days after transplanting. It seems to be promising as a canning tomato, because unprotected plantings, made last year on May 12, yielded at the rate of 20 tons per acre.

Small Irrigation Projects

EVERY gardener knows that for really satisfactory gardening, there should be a plentiful moisture supply in the growing season. There are, in

fact, several hundred small irrigation systems, on individual farms throughout the prairie provinces. The Experimental Station at Swift Current makes some useful suggestions with regard to additional projects which farmers may have in mind.

An abundant supply of water, relatively free from alkali salts, is important; otherwise, the soil may become unproductive as the result of increased salinity, or accumulation of salts. The suitability of water can be determined by analysis, and a sample sent to the Soil Research Laboratory, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, will secure this service.

How to put the water on the land, whether by gravity or sprinkler irrigation, represents an important decision. Sprinkler irrigation is more costly, but if the land is higher than the water supply, or is irregular, with fairly steep slopes, a sprinkler system is necessary. In some cases, it is practicable to pump water to higher land, through a pipe which delivers it to a system of ditches for gravity distribution.

For a small garden patch, the sprinkler method is popular in most instances, because the water can be supplied more easily to a small unit.

Literature on this subject is available from the Experimental Station at Swift Current, or through your local agricultural representative.

Horticultural Guides

AN excellent "Alberta Horticultural Guide" prepared by the Alberta Horticultural Advisory Committee for the current year, is available to all Alberta residents. One that is not quite as complete is also available from the Manitoba Department of Agriculture.

The Alberta guide contains a map showing the horticultural zones in the province and a brief description of the climatic conditions in each zone. In addition, there are recommended varieties of fruits, vegetables, annual flowers, herbaceous perennials, rock garden plants, hardy trees and shrubs and woody vines. There are, besides, recommended lists of individual flowers, such as dahlias, gladioli, bearded iris, Siberian iris, peonies and hardy bulbs. The guide also contains condensed, useful information about planting spaces for vegetables, control of pests and diseases, storing garden produce, making compost, as well as cultural notes about some of the principal flowers, the planting of trees and shrubs, shelterbelts and lawn building. In the back is a generous list of available publications. Get a copy now—you will find it very useful.

Who Makes A Garden

Whoever makes a garden
Has never worked alone;
The rain has always found it,
The sun has always known.

The wind has blown across it
And helped to scatter seeds;
Whoever makes a garden
Has all the help he needs.

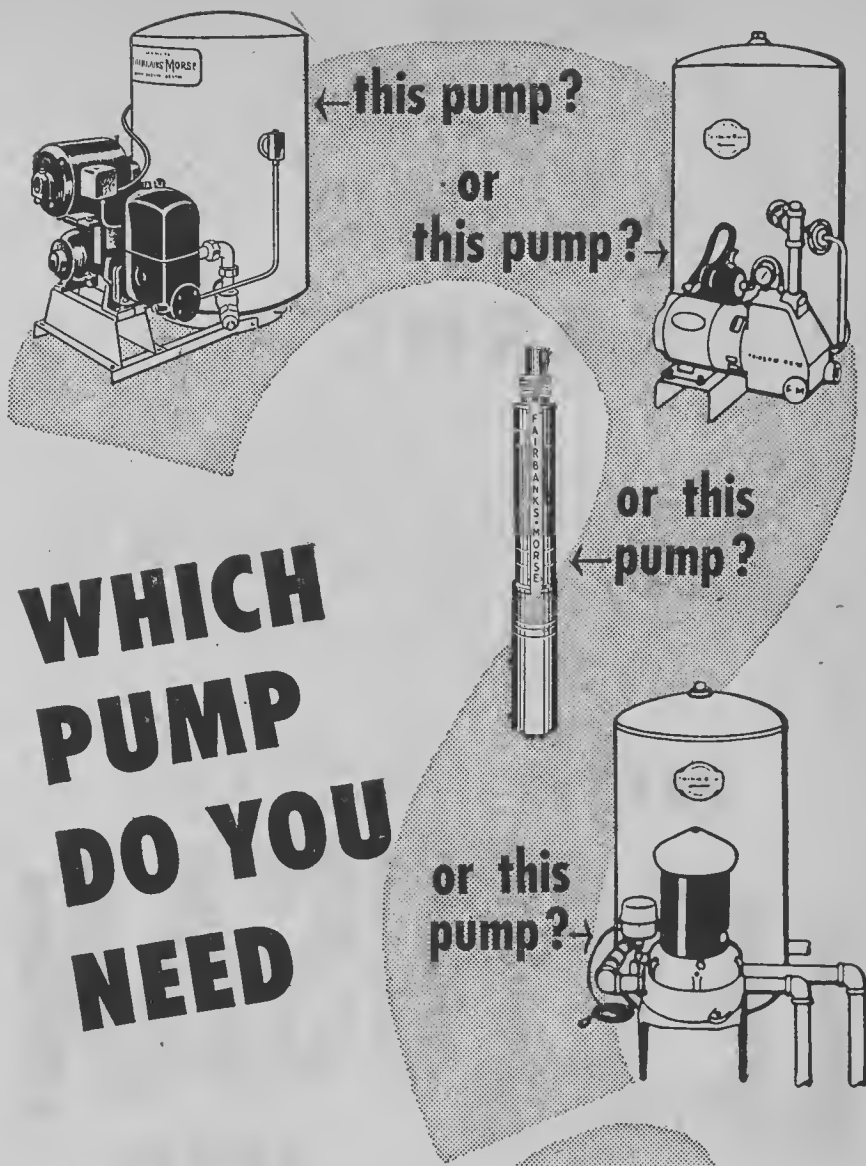
Whoever makes a garden
Should surely not complain
Of someone like the sunshine
And someone like the rain,

And someone like the breezes
To aid him in his toil;
And someone like the Father
Who gave the garden soil.

Whoever makes a garden
Has, Oh, so many friends—
The glory of the morning,
The dew when twilight ends,

The wind and rain and sunshine
The dew and fertile sod—
And he who makes a garden
Walks hand in hand with God.

(These verses were written by Douglas Malloch. They were read at the annual convention of the Manitoba Horticultural Association, by Mrs. D. M. Brown, in memory of Cliff Robertson of Gilbert Plains, who was not only keenly interested in horticulture, but was a director of the Dauphin Horticultural Society. He was killed in a tractor accident in the autumn of 1952.)



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Native Hobby Woods

Twelve native woods found on the prairies, which combine grain, color, hardness and growth habit, to suit any hobbyist

by KERRY WOOD

EVERY rural school and shop classroom throughout western Canada should have a panel of native woods on display. In many a consolidated school, students have ample opportunities to learn wood-working, but in most cases they are required to pay for materials used—fancy imported stock such as mahogany, black walnut, gumwood, clear pine, or lathe-spindles of hard maple.

Yet we have many fine hobby woods growing in almost every western district, and all free for the taking. Some of this wood must be seasoned before it can be worked, but much of it is ready for immediate use. Hence the importance of schools having display boards similar to the one shown in the illustration, featuring samples of native woods with descriptions of their hobby uses.

The board depicted shows 12 different woods, all common to the prairie provinces. Plain and varnished specimens are tacked on the board, with sap and heart sections displayed to reveal the attractions of color and grain. Names and uses of items shown are as follows:

Diamond willow. Best known of western hobby woods, available almost everywhere, and usable as found, green or seasoned. When the rough bark is removed, rich variations of white and red colors are seen. Diamond willow can be employed for making table lamps as pictured on the board, fruit and candy bowls, candle sticks, tie racks, legs for coffee tables, fern stands and fancy bookcases.

Caragana. While not strictly a native wood, caragana is so widely planted that it is always obtainable. Seasoned stock, pale-yellow in color, provides an excellent wood for figurine carving. Root portions are especially pleasing in grain-flow, and take a glossy finish.

White birch. Best native wood for furniture making; also a fine lathe wood. Dowels of white birch yield satisfactory shafts for practice arrows.

Black birch. The attractive bark may be left on this wood, and halved branches used for making rustic picture frames as shown at the bottom of illustration. Those who like bark-carving find black birch an effective medium, while others make walking sticks from this stock, because right-angled grip sections are often obtainable from birch clumps.

Osier willow. Smooth-barked osiers are plentiful near every stream and lake. This is the best basket willow. In addition to regular basketry, boys may wish to weave the light but

strong pack-baskets once carried by northland trappers. Fishermen's reels can be fashioned from willow switches. Indians once used the straight osiers for canoe frames and ribs. Osiers also make the best willow whistles!

Poplar. Well-seasoned blocks of white poplar are ideal for carving boats, heads, animals, birds, or anything your knife can shape. An excellent chip-carving wood.

White spruce. Best native construction material. Select clear boards for furniture making, where white pine is specified. Search river and creek banks for spruce driftwood, eroded into fantastic shapes by water action and marvellous for mantel ornaments.

Saskatoon. The favorite bow-wood of Cree buffalo hunters of the past, and still capable of turning out tough and springy archery weapons. Saskatoon wood was once exported to England, where it was used by fishing rod makers as a substitute for lancewood. Try making yourself a casting rod from a whippy length of seasoned saskatoon. Bark-carvers are fond of this common native wood.

Chokecherry. Another good bow-making material. When found in large butt diameters, chokecherry provides a worthwhile lathe blank, as it is quite hard and has some pleasing grain effects.

Juniper. Root sections of this dwarf evergreen are usually twisty and tough, ideal for figurine carving. It is possible to bore out the soft pith in green juniper branches, for later use as pipe stems and as cigarette holders.

Dwarf dogwood.

Better known as red willow. The colorful shoots are liked by basket workers, adding scarlet switches for decorative weaving. If varnished when freshly cut, red willow retains its bright color and provides pleasing frame-wood for pictures to be hung in sportsmen's dens, or on walls of resort cottages.

Silver berry. Sometimes called wolf willow. This plentiful shrub gives us the finest lathe wood obtainable on the prairies. Winter-cut wood, seasoned for six months, shows a creamy sap layer that contrasts gracefully with the dark hue of the inner wood—which closely resembles the expensive black walnut. Silver berry is full of tiny pin-knots, adding interest to the finished product. A set of chessmen or checkers carved from this distinctive wood makes a beautiful sight. The bowl of the Indian pipe shown on the display board was fashioned out of silver berry.



The author's panel of native woods suitable for hobbycraft.

Hardy Perennials

Continued from page 14

In old plantings, where clumps have become starved and the blooms small, they should be dug up and divided. The outer portion of the plant provides the healthiest divisions. After carefully lifting the old plants, they should be shaken free of soil and pulled apart into pieces, each with three to five shoots. Chopping with a spade should

depth. It is good practice to place a few inches of coarse gravel under the bulbs to ensure good drainage. Lily bulbs will not tolerate excess moisture about their roots. Late September or early October is considered the best time to plant lilies.

Besides the varieties mentioned here, there are many others offered for sale by nurserymen. It is best to rely on local firms, as the stock offered by them is naturally better suited for

Perennials for Special Purposes			
Tolerant of Shade	Early Flowering	For Dry Places	Late Flowering
Bleeding heart	Bloodroot	Babys breath	Monkshood (Wilsoni)
Columbine	Early Adonis	Sea Lavender	Late Sunflower
Lily of the Valley	Painted Daisy	Sedum	Golden Rod
Meadow Rue	Lupin	Pentstemon	Michaelmas Daisy
Sweet Woodruff	Iris	Gaillardia	Hardy
	Peony		Chrysanthemum
			Autumn Daisy

be avoided, because this often damages the roots severely.

If a large stock of a choice variety is required, the old plant may be separated into single shoots, each with a portion of root attached. These small divisions should be set out in the reserve garden, where they will develop into well-rooted plants for transfer to the perennial border in the spring.

The bulbous plants, such as tulips and lilies, have a special place in the perennial border, the former providing patches of bright color in early spring, when little else is in bloom. Tulips are best planted in late September, or as soon as the bulbs are available in the seed stores. They are spaced about six to eight inches apart, and four to six inches deep. The lighter the soil the greater the depth, but never more than six inches, or less than four.

Lilies may be had in bloom from June until September, by carefully selecting the varieties. Care must be taken not to overdo the planting of the orange-colored ones, of which there are so many. The following varieties give a full range of colors, and bloom throughout the season: liliun monadelphum, yellow; candlestick lily, orange and red; stenographer lilies, shades of orange; coronation, yellow; regal and centifolium, white trumpets; tiger and henryi, tawny orange shades.

Lilies are most effective when planted in groups of five or more bulbs, spacing the bulbs a foot or more apart and from six to ten inches deep. The larger the bulb the greater the

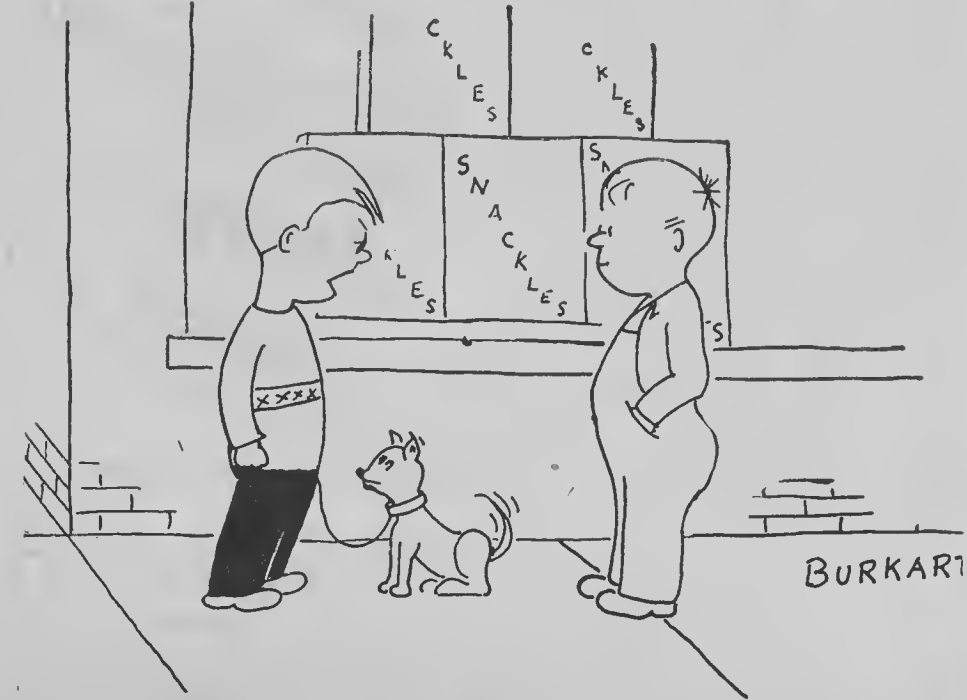
prairie gardens, than plants offered for sale by nurserymen located in the milder sections of the country. It is also advisable to place your order early. Should the plants arrive before the ground is ready, they can be "heeled in" by taking out a trench deep enough to hold the roots without crowding, and packing the soil firmly about the roots to prevent them from drying out. They will be perfectly safe until conditions for planting are favorable.

THERE is a mistaken idea that perennial plants require less attention than annuals. It is true that they do not have to be planted every year, as do the annuals; nevertheless, perennials require attention throughout the season. Staking, tying, cultivating and removal of spent blossoms are routine practices that must be carried out as required, if the border is to be clean and tidy.

Perennial weeds such as dandelions and quack grass sometimes find their way into the hearts of the plants. If allowed to grow unchecked they will ultimately kill out the plant. In the autumn, before the ground has frozen hard, these perennial weeds may be dug out easily.

A recommended list of hardy perennials suitable for your district may be obtained from your provincial department of agriculture, university, agricultural representative, or your nearest experimental station.

(Note: H. F. Harp is head gardener at the Morden Experimental Station, Morden, Manitoba.—Ed.)

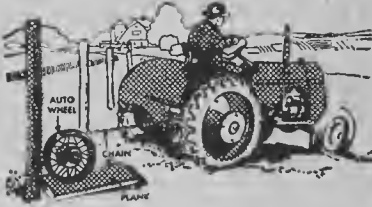


"Whadd'ya mean, mongrel! Pop says he's a pure accident and Pop knows better'n you!"



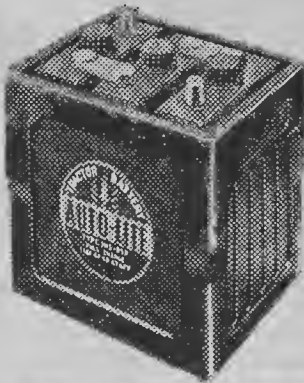
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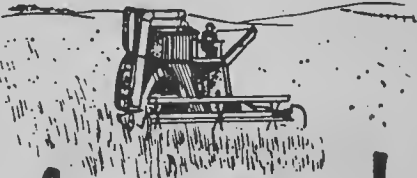
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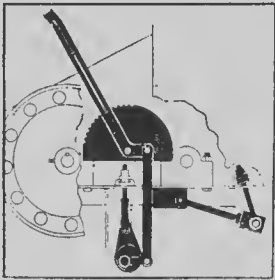
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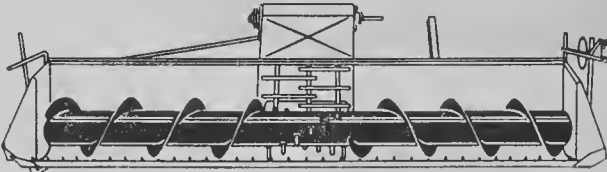


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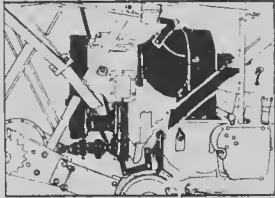
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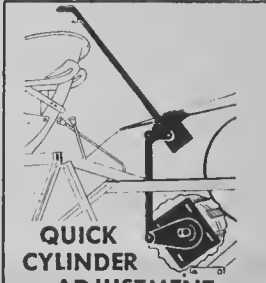
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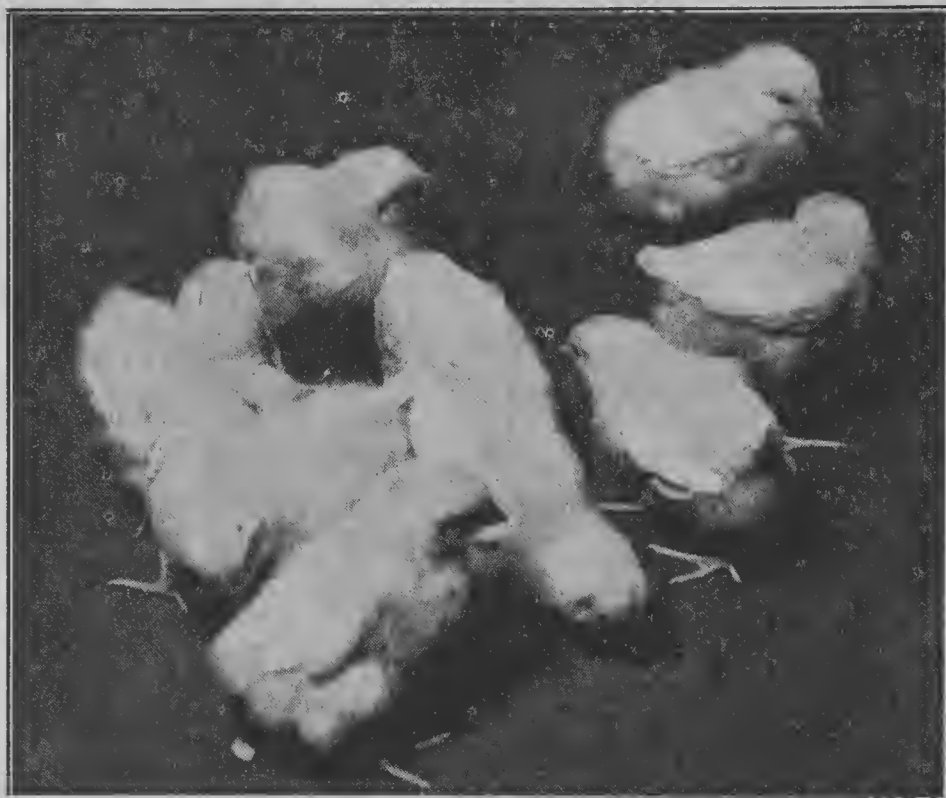
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POULTRY



These newly hatched chicks are ready to go into the brooding house.

Brood Chicks the Easy Way

Heat bulbs brood chicks at less cost and turn out healthier birds

THE advance of science has brought aid to poultrymen again. This time it comes to those looking for better methods of brooding chicks. The clucking hen has been replaced by the mechanical hatchery. Now comes man-made and controlled brooding equipment. The new aid is electrical, and for those who use it, brooding costs will be lower and there will be little of the old danger of fire in the brooding pens. There will be fewer logs and less coal or oil to cart around, fewer stoves to fire and carefully regulate, and fewer smells of old gas or oil that were once typical of the brooder house. Best of all, when the farmer's servant, electricity, is put to use for brooding chicks, the birds that emerge as producers will likely be healthier, hardier and better money-makers, regardless of whether they are headed for the roasting pan, or for a winter's work in the laying pens.

Electrical equipment is made to order for brooding chicks. For example, look at the flock of Wally Landreth, just outside of Winnipeg. Two years ago he installed his first infra-red light bulb brooder. He made it for \$20 and it was simply a metal hover from which were suspended the infra-red bulbs which directed heat right onto the baby chicks. The whole hover could be raised or lowered, since it was suspended by pulleys from the ceiling. This \$20 piece of equipment was sufficient to handle 500 chicks.

Before the season was over Wally decided that even this cost could be reduced, because the hover wasn't really needed. It served no useful purpose and the chicks could crawl up under the hover where they couldn't be seen. Heat lamps are self-shaded, directing the heat right down onto the chicks. For this reason, he suspended lamps individually by their electric cords so that they could be raised gradually as the chicks got older and began to feather.

The cost of this brooding equipment is one of the heartening factors in the urgent effort of poultrymen to cut costs and maintain year-end profits.

One bulb may cost less than two dollars; or it may be twice that much, if it is the kind that resists breakage when splashed with water. One bulb supplies heat enough for 75 to 100 chicks.

Wally believes that a stove is still essential in the brooding house, to provide supplementary heat, at least until the middle of April. The infra-red bulbs warm the chicks as long as they are directly under the rays, but they won't warm up the air in the pen. An oil or coal stove in the center will do that trick.

Wally is serious when he says that chicks brooded under electricity will be healthier. This is his reason:

"Fumbling with oil stoves and hovers and trying to keep an exact temperature at the edge of the hover is an intricate job. The temperature is bound to go a little too high, or too low sometimes, and that will mean less healthy chicks.

"By using electricity and an extra stove and aiming at a wall temperature of 65-70 degrees in the pen, the air won't get too hot. Chicks, dashing here and there under the lamps, will then have a more comfortable temperature than they would under a low hover, and when they go out on range they will be hardier because of it.

"There is a precaution to be taken here, if you are going to use many lamps. The load limit of the wiring should be checked. Standard lamps draw 250 watts each—ten lamps mean 2,500 watts; and if the circuit can't stand it and a fuse blows, the answer isn't a bigger fuse. The answer is fewer lamps on the circuit."

When lamps are used thermometers are of no use, but the chicks themselves will tell the poultryman whether the lamps are in the right position. Each chick selects the intensity of heat it desires. When too many chicks stay away from the heat, it means that too many lamps are being used, or they are mounted too low. When too many crowd in under the heat, insufficient lamps are being used, or the lamps are too high. Fifteen to 18 inches above the floor is about the right height

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends this lye-lime white-wash:

Dissolve 1 lb. of lye in 5½ gallons of water. To this solution add 2½ lbs. water slaked (not air-slaked) lime. Apply as ordinary white-wash.

This whitewash both improves appearance of farm buildings and also acts as a long-lasting disinfectant—the action of the lime actually prolonging the disinfectant properties of the lye.

DISINFECTANT AGAINST MITES

The following mite disinfectant is highly effective and also inexpensive to prepare:

Dissolve 1½ lbs. of lye in as small a quantity of water as possible. Allow to cool. Put 3 quarts of raw linseed oil into 5-gallon stone crock. Pour in the lye solution very slowly. Keep stirring until a smooth, liquid soap is produced. Then gradually add 2 gallons crude carbolic acid or commercial creosol. Stir until resulting fluid is clear dark brown. Use 2-3 tablespoons of the mixture to a gallon of water as a spray.

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when brooding starts. As the birds get older, the lamps should be raised a couple of inches every week.

Wally Landreth has other ideas of interest to those who are brooding chicks this spring.

"Chicks won't eat from hoppers for the first few days, so we lay down a half dozen sheets of paper where they are to be fed. Each day a sheet is lifted and the chicks are fed on the fresh one below. By the end of the week they will be eating from hoppers and will no longer need paper.

"The litter is an important factor in the health of chicks; and peat moss is the best material if it is available. I sometimes have to use shavings, but I have opened many dead chicks and found impacted gizzards from eating shavings. Shavings can be dangerous.

"There is one other thing to remember when heat lamps are used—don't cook the poor chicks. Stretch the guard, which can be made of cardboard or sheet metal, so that the diameter is wide enough to let the chicks get away from the direct rays of the lamp if they want to. Let them choose their own temperatures and they will do a better job than we can do for them."—D.B.

Room for Chicks to Grow

YOUNG chicks won't be healthy if they are in crowded pens. They need room to scurry around the floor, enough hopper space to eat whenever they feel hungry, and they need fresh water at all times.

A brooder house 10 feet wide and 12 feet long supplies enough floor space for 240 chicks up to six weeks old. That gives them six square inches of floor space each. After the first six weeks, however, the rapidly growing birds need twice as much space as before, so the 240 birds should be reduced to 120 in the one pen.

One inch of feeding space in the hoppers is necessary for each chick during the first three weeks, but this should be doubled when the chicks are from three to six weeks old, and finally increased to three inches. In addition to fresh feed, chicks need fresh water at all times; and for the first six weeks at least two half-gallon fountains should be in front of each 100 chicks.

Selling More Poultry

EARLY April brings to British Columbia one of the first poultry shows of its type ever held in Canada. There will be something there for everyone even remotely concerned about poultry. Exhibits of baby chicks and turkey poults will be made by hatcherymen. There will be exhibits of canned and dressed poultry, and eggs; and all other types of poultry products also will be on display.

Since many of the visitors are expected to be housewives and restaurant people, cooking demonstrations will be given for them by expert home economists, while for the head of the house who has to carve the roasted fowl, there will be carving demonstrations.

The poultry industry is becoming aware of the value of publicity, of the fact that consumers have to be continually reminded how good poultry products are; and this show, sponsored jointly by the West Coast Poultry Producers and the New Westminster Kiwanis Club, will be another factor

in getting Canadians to eat more chicken and eggs. The show is held in the New Westminster Market Building.

How Newcastle Spreads

IT has been discovered that Newcastle disease, the poultry disease that spread over Canada so swiftly during the past few years, can actually be spread in the air, like the common human cold. Like the cold, the infection can spread before you ever notice the symptoms—scientists say as much as two days before disease symptoms appear.

Healthy chickens were allowed to breathe some air which had been contaminated by the breath of other virus-infected birds, and sure enough, the healthy birds picked up the disease.

At the present time, Newcastle can be largely controlled in flocks by careful sanitation, and by a vaccination program.

A Place to Lay

NESTS on western Canadian poultry farms are usually of one of two types, individual or community nests. The latter have been gaining in popularity during the past few years.

When individual nests are used, about 20 are needed for each 100 hens in the flock, and it is poor economy to supply a heavy-laying flock with less. Crowded nests mean dirty and broken eggs and far less satisfaction. It is often worthwhile to darken open nests with oilcloth or burlap curtains to reduce egg-eating and cannibalism.

These nests should be built in batteries of any length and should be built so they can be easily removed for cleaning and spraying. A battery of six nests is a convenient arrangement, with each nest about 12 inches wide.

Community nests are gaining in popularity and this type has no partitions. Hens simply enter the nest, choose any spot in the dimly lit interior that suits them, and settle down. Such a nest is usually between two and two-and-a-half feet wide and may be of any length to fit the location. A 2 x 6 foot community nest will care for 50 to 60 hens.

Community nests are usually built with hinged tops sloping toward the front, to keep the birds from roosting on them and to make it easy to reach in and collect the eggs. One or two entrances can be provided, depending on the size of the nest.

Plenty of fresh air for the laying hens can be assured by leaving the upper portion of the back open, and by keeping the back of the nest at least three or four inches away from the wall.

Specializing in Poultry

IT is always interesting to watch events in other countries and here is what an American poultryman says about his industry:

"Although chickens have been domesticated for more than 5,000 years, there has never been a period when the poultry industry has undergone so many changes as during the past 10 to 15 years. The trend toward specialization probably has been the greatest single change. Today broilers of top quality can be purchased in most any town in the United States any day of the year, at a price the housewife can afford."

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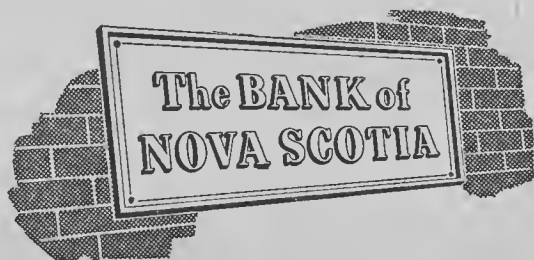
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FARM YOUNG PEOPLE



Demonstrator for this Young Farmers Club in Kenya is Edith Wanjuru, the girl standing, who is training this group of young folk in better farming methods.

Travelling 4-H'ers

THE marks of an advancing agriculture are daily expressed in better tractors and more efficient combines, in vaccines and drugs which control such diseases as Brucellosis, shipping fever and mastitis, and in new varieties of grain and seed which result in bigger yields of field crops. New farming methods are practised on many acres and could be put to use on many more, enabling young farmers to work their land more efficiently than their fathers ever dreamed of.

But these are only a few of the benefits that young farmers today enjoy. Young people have the opportunity to travel, and winners in 4-H club competitions particularly may travel widely, meet youths of other sections of the country and, in fact, travel to other countries and meet, face to face, people from all over the world. Lorne Loveridge, of Grenfell, was one of Saskatchewan's grain club representatives at the Royal Winter Fair last fall. After his return home, he wrote of his trip:

"The thrill of a lifetime. This is the most adequate way to sum up our 'Royal Journey.' It was a thrill to be a national winner. It carried with it the opportunity to exchange views with young people from our vast country, and added to our knowledge and understanding of Canada.

"The meeting with other people from Canada, in my opinion, was one of the greatest benefits of my trip. I met fine young people, and it helped me to understand the feeling which links together different parts of this vast Canada of ours."

Living and travelling and competing with other young people, from all over Canada, was a grand experience for Lorne, one which he will not soon forget. In describing his trip, he has shared it with other members of his family and community and province, and has contributed toward greater understanding between different parts of Canada.

Now another trip is being planned for a few more outstanding young Canadian farmers. This time they will travel farther, meet more people from distant places, and begin to under-

stand people from many other nations of the world.

This is the Coronation trip, and a few 4-H'ers have been chosen to represent Canada's 4-H clubs. Two of the excited representatives are Audrey Adair of the Pipestone, Manitoba, 4-H club, and Ken Forbes of the Dauphin, Manitoba, 4-H club. Audrey has been a 4-H club member for nine years, doing calf work, clothing work and handicrafts. Ken has an active eight-year record with his Dauphin club and he climaxed this by being a member of the winning swine-judging team at the national contest last fall at the Royal Winter Fair.

Audrey, Ken and the other Canadians will be leaving Canada in May. They will be among the crowds at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth and will take part in a great rally of Commonwealth youth. They will see farms and cities and schools and other interesting things in Great Britain before finally returning to Canada.

All Canada wishes these ambassadors well on their journey across the seas.

Artificial Nest

MOST stables on the prairies have one or two mud and grass barn swallow nests hung from the rafters. If the roof is not too tight, wet weather will sometimes bring the nest crashing to the barn floor. Cecilia Hill, Nanaimo, B.C., recently wrote of an experience in Manitoba where a possible tragedy of this nature was averted:

"We had an interesting experience with barn swallows in Manitoba some years ago," she wrote in The Blue Jay. "Each year a pair built a nest in the cow barn and one summer morning my husband found the nest and tiny birds had fallen on the floor and the parents were flying around in great distress. He nailed a small strawberry basket on the beam where the nest had been and put the little fellows into it and hoped for the best. To our great joy the parents continued caring for them and shortly after, the wee fellows clambered onto the edge of the basket, and remained monarchs of all they surveyed till they were ready to fly."



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Completely new '53 Mercury Trucks are "strength-engineered" for durability—have stay-on-the-job stamina. New axles, new transmissions, new "short-turn" chassis design make handling easier and faster — on the highway or on narrow gravel back roads.

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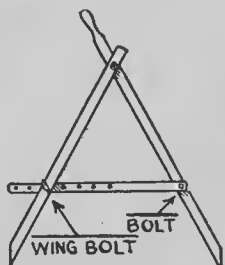
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Workshop in April

Last chance for odd jobs before the big spring rush

Land Measure

A handy caliper for laying off plow lands or making quick measurements can be made as shown. It should be made from light wooden strips riveted at the top and with a center piece, preferably curved, with a large range of adjustments. In use the caliper is held near the top and swung over and over in a rolling motion so that the points touch the ground alternately.—A.B., Sask.

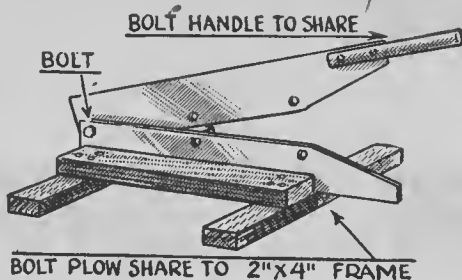


Preserving Gutters

Clean your galvanized roof gutters before they corrode, using a steel brush or steel wool. Scrub them clean, and when the gutter is dry apply hot asphalt or tar on the inside. This will prevent rust.—C.A.M.

Heavy Duty Shears

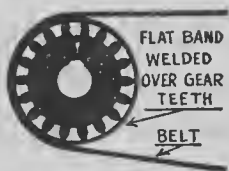
Cutting asphalt roofing or shingles is difficult and disagreeable. I made a shear that will do the job well by bolting together two 14-inch plow



shares and bolting the lower share to a frame made of two-by-fours. This works well, though 16-inch shares might be a little better.—I.W.D.

Noiseless Gear

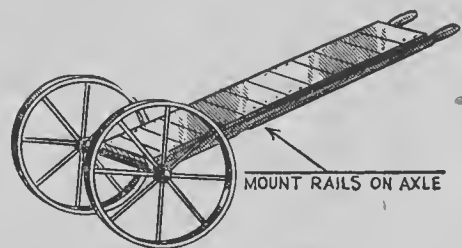
A gear drive in a western plant became so noisy that it was a serious annoyance to people working near it.



A noiseless pinion could have been installed, but instead the gear drive was converted into a belt drive by welding a flat band on the top of the gear teeth. The noise was eliminated and the belt drive takes care of the load with no difficulty.—W.F.S.

Keep Your Feet Dry

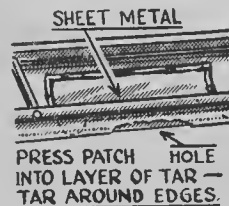
A couple of discarded rake wheels can be used to make a platform for hauling water from a slough. Put an axle between the two wheels and



fasten two rails vertical to the axle, about 18 inches apart. Nail boards between these rails for a walk. The rails can be set on the edge of the truck or wagon, or on the edge of the slough, with the wheels out in the water. This makes a good walk for bucketing out of deeper water.—F.J., Sask.

Eave Trough Repair

Holes in eave troughs can be readily mended with a piece of sheet metal and a can of tar or asphalt. Bend the sheet metal to fit smoothly over the entire hole and spread the asphalt or tar over the area the patch will touch. Press the patch against it. To make the job positively leak-proof apply more of the preparation around the edges of the patch. If you have no suitable sheet metal a piece of asphalt shingle or roofing will do.—W.F.S.



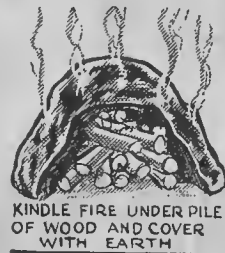
Prevent Posts Splitting

For my electric fence I use four-foot tamarack posts two inches across at the top. When the ground is hard the top of the post is badly split by the time the post is firmly set. To prevent this I tapered them a little at the top and tacked two layers of half inch strips of galvanized roofing around the top end. A one-and-a-half inch cap might be even better. Either one prevents splitting.—I.W.D.



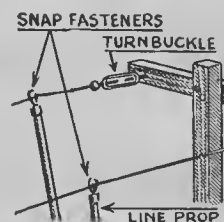
Making Charcoal

You can make your own charcoal for burning in an outdoor fireplace. First make a pile of wood in the shape of a pyramid, then put lots of kindling below it. Set the kindling afire and cover the wood with earth, which restricts the draught and prevents the wood from burning.



Keeping the Line Up

Nothing is quite so discouraging to a busy housewife as to have the clothesline prop slip out on a windy day and let the family wash flop around on the ground. I made a prop for each line with a pointed pole and two strong harness snaps, attaching one to the end of each prop. The snap fastens to the line and the prop can be pushed out at the bottom until the clothes are on the line and then be put back in position. Friction tape around the line on each side of the snap will stop them from slipping lengthwise.—I.W.D.



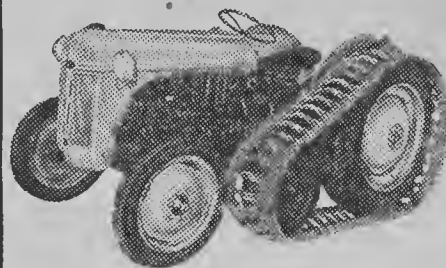
Cutting Roofing

When using tin shears to cut roofing, linoleum, or composition shingles, dip the shears in oil to prevent gumming of the blades. This will help to make a clean cut without tearing or folding of the material. Any type of heavy oil will do.—A.B., Sask.



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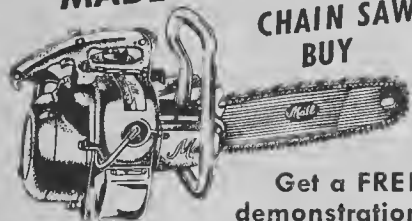
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Sanctuary

Continued from page 11

nest with four fledglings in it, charred to lifeless cinders; rose petals hung ash-grey on bushes; and purple clematis drooped from vines in twisted ugliness.

That fire sparked the citizens to action and the government was petitioned again. Why not create a sanctuary in the woodland area around Gaetz Lakes? The officials agreed, and John Gaetz's widow smiled her satisfaction that her husband's favorite beauty spot was to be saved for future generations to enjoy.

Newspaper and radio station played their part in giving publicity to the venture. Young folk went with naturalists, clearing the debris left in the wake of the fire. A proper picnic area was built, with a cement fireplace where it was safe to light fires without endangering the forest. Picnic tables were placed there, plus a number of bird feeders, where sandwich crumbs could be deposited to interest chickadees, woodpeckers, nuthatches, jays, and the squirrels that lived nearby.

Boys built bird boxes to hang in trees alongside the paths—175 bird boxes, put up by young folk of the town and district. Sturdy benches dotted the shores of First Lake, where people could sit and enjoy the beauties of that pond. Duck rafts were anchored 100 yards out from shore; where mallards, golden-eyes, buffleheads and a dozen other waterfowl varieties preen their feathers.

Second Lake was left untouched. Half a dozen deer have their ranges in the tangled woodlands surrounding that spring fed pond. During the past one of those deer was a blind doe. She memorized a number of paths through her small domain—trails that led to water, to food, or to screening shelter. She was beloved by the naturalists who protected her, a beautiful wild queen among animals. The Second Lake part of the preserve, where she lived, is still as wild today as when John Gaetz came to our western district during homestead days.

WE are all very fond of our sanctuary. Guns are barred from it forever, and no axe will be used against those gracious conifers. Birds and animals sense that it is their special refuge.

Some days 100 happy kiddies will be roasting wieners at the fireplacc. You'll meet a family party on the hill, interested in the berry-picking harvest of a chipmunk. Lovers still go hand in hand down the shady paths, while often a lone man or woman goes quietly into the woodlands to enjoy some solitude amid the bountiful beauties of nature.

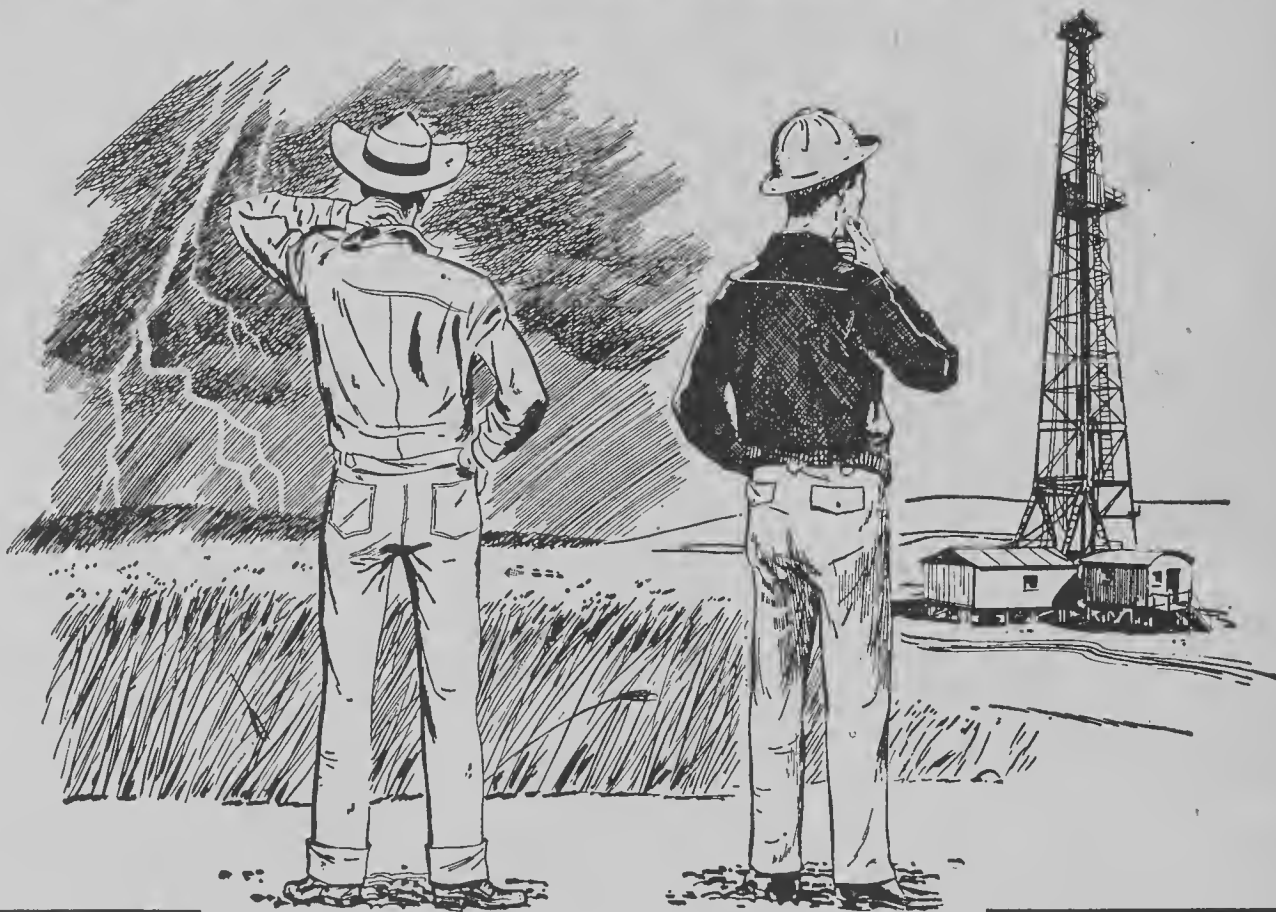
"It's yours and mine," a local speaker said recently, addressing the city school students. "It's ours to cherish and protect for all time to come."

We like that idea. We love the sanctuary's unspoiled charm of wild-wood trails and pleasant vistas across sparkling waters. And we're urging other communities to save their near-home beauty spots. As the sign of the entrance so pleasantly announces:

This Is The Sanctuary

While shooting, trapping, and tree cutting are prohibited here, visitors who love the Friendly Creatures of the woodlands will Always be Welcome.

Oil is a Gamble too !



Farmers and oilmen have a lot in common. A farmer sows a crop, but what he harvests is up to nature.

By the same token, there are many hazards peculiar to the oil business. In spite of scientific improvements and techniques applied to the business of searching for oil, the only way to determine the presence of oil is by drilling. And drilling a wildcat well is one of the most risky ventures in modern industry. Pushing a hole thousands of feet into the earth has cost as much as a million and a half dollars—yet more often than not, wildcat wells turn out dry. Since 1946, for example, the odds against a wildcat well finding a new oil field have been 22 to 1 in Western Canada.

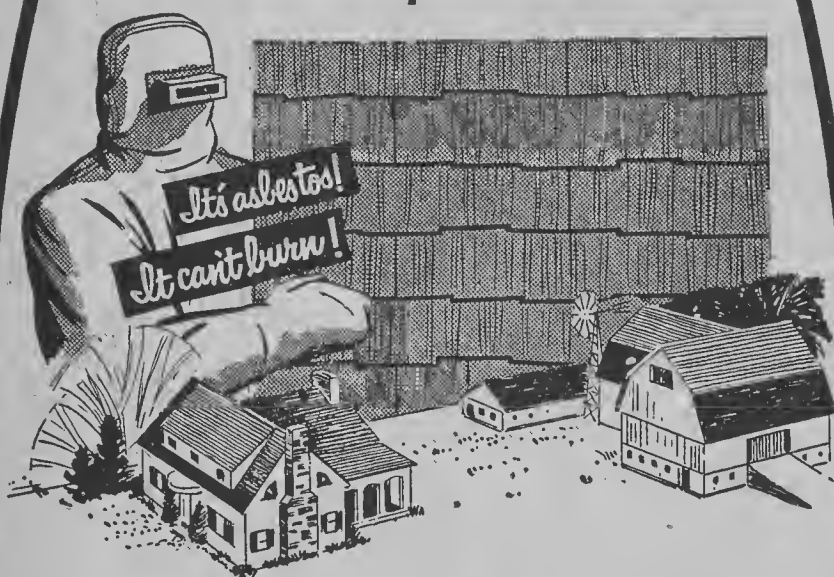
Because oilmen took the gamble—and are still taking it—everybody benefits. Across Western Canada, oil discoveries have brought increased government revenues, payments to farmers for surface use, new employment, and the lowest petroleum product prices in the country.

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Science for the Farm

With each discovery of new knowledge about crops or livestock, the door to better farm living opens a little bit wider

Wheat rusts are bringing headaches to plant breeders. This is not because they cannot beat the rusts, but because new races of rust are constantly arising and may do serious damage to cereal crops before the breeders can develop and multiply rust-resistant varieties. R. C. McGinnis, Laboratory of Cereal Breeding, Winnipeg, says it is becoming increasingly difficult to find new resistant wheats to use for creating new resistant varieties of good milling and baking quality. Some wild grasses that are related to wheat have excellent resistance; but some of these will not cross readily with wheat, or if they do, may produce sterile hybrids. To get at this new reservoir of breeding material, the scientists must build new species. First, they cross the two plants, then treat the resulting hybrid with a chemical such as colchicine. This changes the chromosome number by doubling it, but the hybrid becomes fertile and will then produce seed. There are tricks in every trade, and now scientists have begun learning some of their own.

The first scientific paper ever written on the use of 2,4-D as a herbicide was written in 1945 by Professors Tukey and Hamner of the Geneva Experiment Station, New York State. Thus began, for all practical purposes, the chemical control of weeds, which has since developed into a large and important industry, the products of which are used on many millions of acres of crops, not only in North America, but in Britain and many other countries.

Maple syrup has a delightful flavor, but the sap of the hard maple from which maple syrup is made, has no flavor and no color. Generations ago it was discovered that if this flavorless, colorless sap was boiled down, the result was a rich, brown, delightfully flavored maple syrup. Now, scientists have discovered that by boiling the syrup at atmospheric pressure for two hours at 252°F. and cooling it, they can produce a product with from four to fifteen times more flavor and much darker in color. Also, it will be practically free of the caramel and off-flavors which maple syrup, as we know it, sometimes possesses. The new product can be mixed with cane sugar to make a blend, says the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which "looks and tastes like better grades of pure maple syrup." Two new products are now on the market. One, the new highly flavored maple syrup in cake form, and the other, a thickened syrup. Adding only water and sugar is said to permit the housewife to make a high-quality, inexpensive syrup.

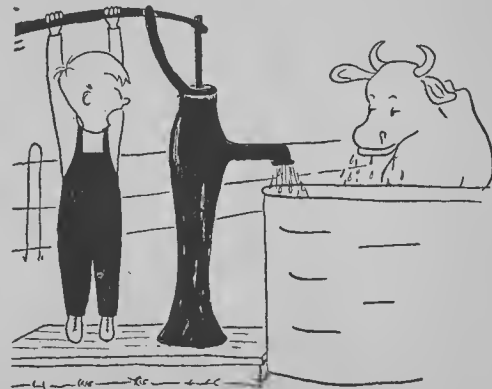
Putting apples to sleep gives them longer life. In some apple storages, the storage rooms are gas-tight and metal-lined. They are also equipped with charcoal blowers, which absorb the natural esters given off by the ripening fruit. When the apples are stored in the fall, the room is closed up, some of the oxygen taken out of the air, and some carbon dioxide put in. Temperature is maintained at 38 to 40°F. and the proportion of gases in the air is maintained by washing the atmosphere. In the spring, the apples wake

up still crisp and juicy, just right for an apple-hungry public.

Wastage of water in 17 western states, amounting to as much as would cover 25,000,000 acres a foot deep each year, has been reported to the Geological Society of Washington. The culprits are a group of useless trees and shrubs called phreatophytes. These plants are said to cover about 16 million acres and squander water equal to about twice the average flow of the Colorado River at Lee's Ferry, Arizona. Their roots reach down to, or near, the water table and lift the ground water, sometimes from substantial depths, dissipating it as vapor into the air. Estimated to cause what is probably "the largest source of reclaimable water in the arid western states," the culprits are identified as a group including alder, cottonwood, mesquite, willow, salt cedar and salt-grass. The remedy is to kill them with 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, pump or drain the water away, or substitute plants of higher economic value, such as alfalfa.

What kind of ice does your soil make when it freezes? Does a rich, fertile soil stay frozen as long in the spring as a poor, infertile soil that has lost its organic matter? Research workers in New England say that soil rich in organic matter forms a honey-comb type of ice that soaks up run-off water and retards erosion. Hard, worn-out soils, on the other hand, freeze into a rock-like ice, which not only penetrates deeper and thaws later in the spring, but permits the run-off water to be lost. Soil under light grass does not freeze as readily as bare soil. Moreover, the spongy ice is usually found in meadows and fields with a higher humus content.

Frozen vegetables would taste better if a new growth "yardstick," reported by C. W. Thornthwaite, of Seabrook Farms, New Jersey, were used. The yardstick would permit vegetables to be picked and processed on exactly the day they reach ripeness. A pea plant is used as the yardstick, and other plants such as sweet corn, beans or spinach, are tied to the yardstick. The pea plant grows from one growing point alone, and from this proceeds to form another node. The nodes develop rapidly in summer and more slowly in early spring and late fall. Over several years, this growth of the pea vine has been translated into growth units. Seeds of any crop are therefore planted according to the growth unit days required between seeding and harvesting. The trouble so far is that the weatherman doesn't pay too much attention to this yardstick.



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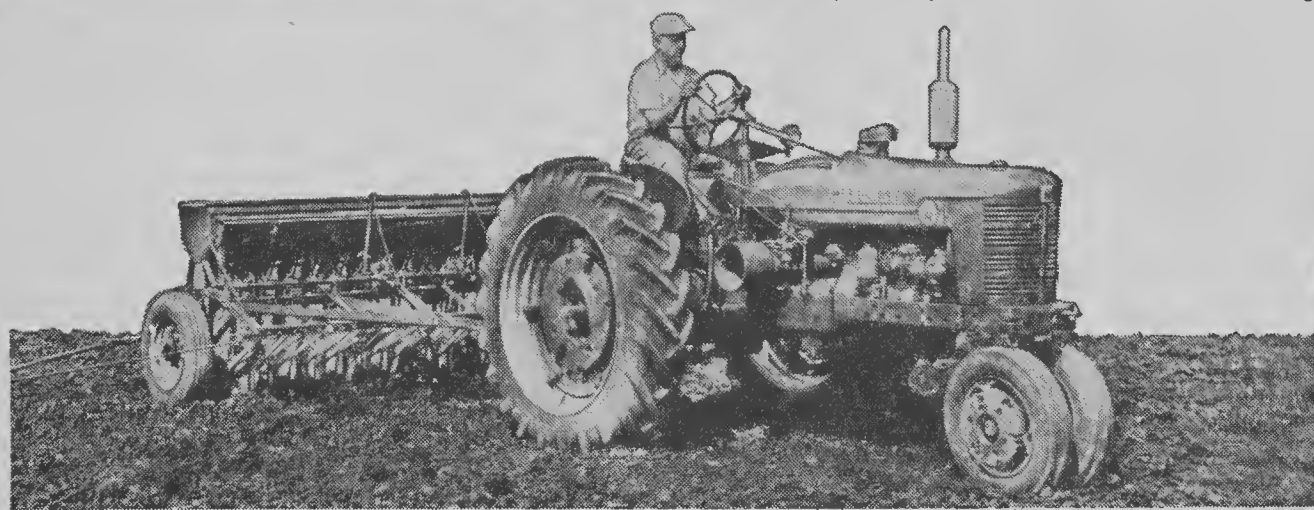
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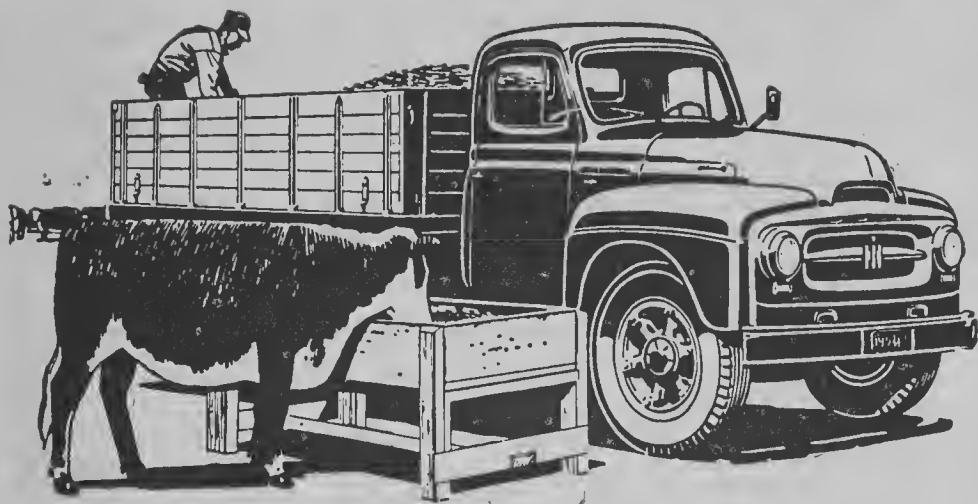
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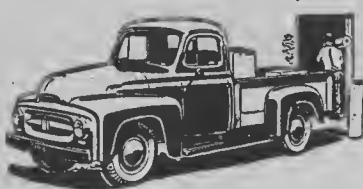
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The Coarse Grains Situation

Western Canadian farmers produced unusually large quantities of coarse grains in the bumper year of 1952. Barley production was established at an all-time high of 281 million bushels and oats production amounted to 346 million bushels. They also produced close to 23 million bushels of rye and 12 million bushels of flaxseed making a total of 661 million bushels of the four grains. Deliverable quantities of three largest of these, oats, barley and rye, have been estimated at 173 million bushels, 179 million bushels and 18 million bushels respectively. Actual producer marketings to March 12 were reported to be approximately 62 million, 103 million and 10 million bushels respectively, which means that something less than half of the barley and rye, and about two-thirds of the oats expected to be delivered have yet to be marketed by producers.

In consideration of the large quantities involved and the available transportation facilities, movement and sales of coarse grains have been proceeding satisfactorily. This appears to be the official view judging from a statement made to the House of Commons on February 18, 1953, by the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce. While the statement was made nearly two months ago, we feel the following portions of the Minister's statement are of interest at this time:

The marketing of grain production of this magnitude has of course presented many difficulties and it was realized early in the crop year that these problems could be met only through aggressive selling on the part of the Canadian Wheat Board and the provision of maximum transportation for the movement of grain.

I am happy to report that good progress is being made with the receiving and the merchandising of western grains. In spite of elevator congestion, which must be expected in the face of the size of the 1952 grain crops, producers had delivered a total of 461 million bushels of grain up to February 5, 1953—a quantity of grain not exceeded during the corresponding period in any of the past ten years.

The bumper crops of 1952 have been accompanied by an excellent demand particularly for wheat and barley. Exports of grain are running well ahead of the corresponding period a year ago when new records were established. I have every reason to believe that the record exports of 1951-52 will be exceeded by a substantial margin by exports in 1952-53. The Canadian Wheat Board has made very large sales so far in the crop year and has large sales on its books for delivery during the balance of the crop year.

In regard to coarse grains, we must recognize that 1952 production and estimated marketings of oats and barley during the crop year 1952-53 involve extraordinary quantities. From the 1952 production, it is estimated that producers will have surpluses of about 175 million bushels of each grain. The position in respect to barley is satisfactory in respect to both marketings and sales and accordingly the government is increasing the initial price of all grades of barley by 15 cents per bushel effective March 2, 1953. The new initial price of barley will be \$1.11 per bushel basis No. 3 C.W. 6-row barley in store Fort William or Port Arthur as compared with the present

initial price of 96 cents per bushel. This will involve an adjustment payment of 15 cents per bushel on all grades of barley delivered to the Board between August 1, 1952, and February 28, 1953.

I now wish to deal with the oats position. Up to the present time only about one-third of possible deliveries of oats for the crop year have been delivered by producers and while sales have been satisfactory, the Canadian Wheat Board do not feel in a position to make a definite recommendation at this time in regard to an increase in the initial price for oats. You will recall that a similar position was taken a year ago in regard to oats. Accordingly, it is the policy of the government to leave the initial price of oats at its present level for the balance of the crop year.

The export movement of Canadian coarse grains which achieved record levels during the 1951-52 crop year has been maintained at even higher levels in the first seven and one-half months of the current crop year. Total exports of Canadian oats, barley, rye and flaxseed during this period amounted to 117 million bushels, over 40 per cent greater than last year's exports at the same date. Current crop year exports of the four grains to March 12, 1953, in millions of bushels with last year's figures in brackets were as follows: barley 71 (37); oats 40 (31); rye 3 (2.4); and flaxseed 3 (1.7).

Major markets for Canadian barley during the present crop year have been Germany, Japan, United States and the Netherlands. The U.S. has been the largest buyer of Canadian oats with Belgium and Switzerland taking most of the balance. The U.S. has likewise been the largest buyer of rye with lesser quantities going to Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Norway. The majority of Canadian flaxseed exports have gone to Belgium during the current year.

While strong export markets are essential to the welfare of Western Canadian coarse grains producers the domestic market remains the greatest outlet for barley and oats, the greater part of this outlet being provided by the livestock industry of Canada as a whole. Since a considerable quantity of grain is fed on the farms on which it is produced, the total domestic market assumes very wide proportions, dependent upon the level of livestock production and the stability of the industry.

Livestock men and the cattle man in particular have experienced considerable difficulties during the past 12 months and have been experiencing misgivings about the future prospects of the markets. The recent lifting of the United States embargo against Canadian livestock imports, although it will not tend to increase prices to Canadian producers, will have a stabilizing effect upon the industry as a whole. There are also a number of other factors tending to stabilize the livestock industry and therefore lending a steadying hand to the returns of coarse grains producers. The recent easing of beef prices has caused an upswing in the per capita consumption of beef in Canada and is in sharp contrast to the situation which existed under former high prices which were placing beef out of the reach of many beef consumers.

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COMMENTARY

The cost of feeder cattle is now lower than it has been for some time past and should tend to increase the feeding of more cattle. Cattle numbers are increasing substantially in both Canada and the United States and with increased consumption on behalf of the consumer-public, consumption of feed grains should increase during the next 12 months. In the longer term, the great increase in the human population of the North American continent promises to expand present-day markets.

On the other hand there are factors which tend to discount these favorable observations. There is the possibility that with cattle numbers at an all-time high, a larger than average movement to markets could take place if breeders and feeders feel that the herd build up has reached its maximum. Other factors to be considered are higher costs of production due to higher wages and higher freight rates and the relationship of cattle prices to the cost of feed. If the livestock feed ratio becomes out of balance there is less incentive for livestock men to feed and fatten livestock.

The Wheat Situation

Any attempted appraisal of the current wheat situation is a difficult and hazardous occupation if one aspires to forecast future trends with any reasonable degree of accuracy. This situation arises from the presence of an unusually large number of factors at the present time which contribute to uncertainty of the future of wheat production and trade.

At time of writing the importing and exporting nations are still negotiating for a renewal of the International Wheat Agreement. Failure to renew the agreement will undoubtedly bring new forces into play in international wheat dealings. In Great Britain the Government has announced that the nation's grain trade will be returned to private hands this coming autumn. At the same time the present complex farm support program will be removed and another substituted on a different pattern. Full details of the plan are not known and some sources have suggested that wording of the Government's statement may have been purposely vague to permit, either continued bulk buying of flour by the Food Ministry or a complete return to private trading.

Under existing controls, British farmers are compelled to deliver 75 per cent of their production to the flour miller but when restrictions are removed this fall, this compulsion will be withdrawn. It is quite possible that producers will then place more emphasis on livestock production, and hogs in particular, than has been possible under regulations which have prevailed during the past 12 years. Prior to the war probably somewhere near half of the British wheat crop was used for livestock feed. In addition, much of the extra wheat grown out of necessity during the war came from land which might otherwise have been used for the production of animals and animal products.

Contributing as usual to the uncertainty of the future wheat situation are the prospects of the 1952-53 bread-grains. The United States Department

of Agriculture's publication, *The Wheat Situation*, states that prospects for these grains sown in the fall of 1952 for harvest in 1953 are less favorable than they were a year ago in the major producing areas for which reports are available. Unfavorable weather conditions over much of Europe curtailed fall seeding and recent reports indicate that a smaller percentage than usual has been completed in several countries. The report suggests that although spring seeding may be increased, the total acreage seeded to wheat may not be significantly changed from 1952. It also draws attention to the fact that moisture reserves in the prairie provinces up to November 15 were reported at only 88 per cent of normal, compared with 136 per cent of normal a year earlier.

The 1953 production of U.S. fall-sown wheat was estimated in December at 611 million bushels. If spring wheat acreage approximates 22 million acres and if yields are normal, a spring wheat crop of about 310 million bushels would be produced. This would mean that total U.S. production would be about 920 million bushels, substantially below the 1952 level. However, weather conditions in major U.S. winter wheat producing regions are still in doubt and these estimates could be reduced still further.

The United States Department of Agriculture has predicted higher cash wheat prices during the next few months because of the large quantity of wheat placed under price support. This has reduced the supply available for sale, according to *The Wheat Situation* report.

Canadian wheat and flour exports have been proceeding satisfactorily despite the West Coast strike tie-up and total exports from August 1, 1952, to March 12, 1953, have reached 215 million bushels. This compares with 187 million bushels of wheat and wheat flour equivalent during the same period in the preceding year.

The Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce, announced in the House of Commons on February 18 that the Government has approved an increase in the initial price of all grades of wheat, excepting durums, from \$1.40 per bushel to \$1.60 per bushel, basis No. 1 Northern in store Fort William, Port Arthur or Vancouver. Effective March 2, 1953, an adjustment payment of 20 cents per bushel is being made to producers covering their deliveries of all grades of wheat other than durums between August 1, 1952, and February 28, 1953. Distribution of the payments commenced on April 1.

Speaking of durum wheat, the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe stated that there has been an "exceptionally strong demand during the present crop year and actually the production of durum wheat is not now sufficient to meet the demand for this type of grain." As a result of this strong demand he announced that the initial price on all grades of durum wheat would be increased by 25 cents per bushel and that an adjustment payment in this amount would be made to all producers who had delivered durum wheat to the Board between August 1, 1952, and February 28, 1953.

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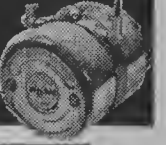
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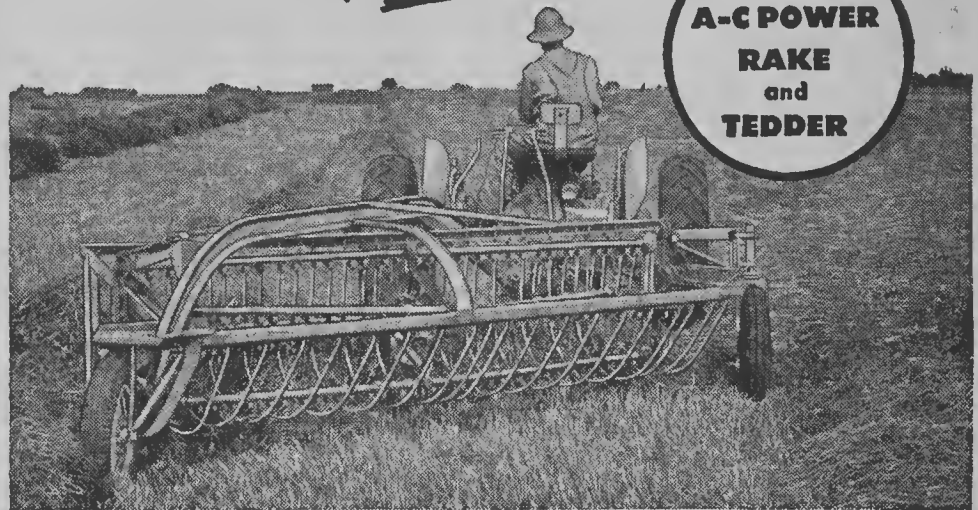
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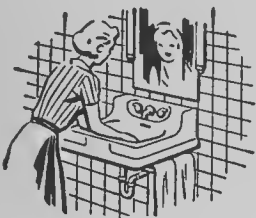
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Roughly built shelter and manger help keep expenses down on the Carruthers farm while the well-fed steers grow fat for market.

by DON BARON

Market-Topping Steers

Two cattle enthusiasts make beef production pay

JUST over the southern ridge of the winding Pembina valley near the Minnesota border of Manitoba is the outwardly unimposing farmstead of D. D. Carruthers and his son Mervin. The first objects to catch the eye of a stranger driving in are a track-type tractor with a dozing blade attached, then another tractor, a combine, and a new truck with a hydraulic lift on the box.

Behind this array of machinery lie some modest buildings, neat enough, but far from fancy. Obviously it is a mechanized farm, probably a big grain farm.

But the first sweeping look fails to reveal the interesting feature of this unusual farm. The shrewd and searching minds of the Carruthers partners are building the farm into a highly profitable business, by the simple process of putting the emphasis on the things that really count.

Buildings are plain and fences and gates are simple, for it is the cattle that get the attention. As we strolled around the corner of the barn early in March and came to the feed lot, the picture that greeted us was a dozen of the squarest, soggiest steers seen for a long time. These steers hadn't been in a building all winter. Their only shelter was a rough and ready structure made by erecting posts, throwing branches over the posts, and giving the structure a roof by covering with loose straw.

With this shelter boarded on two sides to break the wind, the steers fed there the winter through, healthy and active, gaining weight and fit till spring and time for market came. If they catch the eyes of as many buyers as steers from the same lot have done in preceding years, they will likely top the market when they get there.

The story of the Carruthers farm began in 1906. A young Nova Scotia lad, eager to see the stretching fields of the Canadian prairies that were rapidly becoming world-renowned for their fertility and their golden harvests, tucked \$30 in his pocket, climbed aboard the harvest excursion train and headed west. He liked the new country so well that he stayed to buy his own farm and now is the senior partner of the father-and-son team.

The farmstead has seen great changes since then. More acres have been added until it now measures seven quarter-sections. More land has been cleared and a breeding herd of 25 Hereford females has been built up. Beef production methods have been streamlined. Labor is too expensive to be wasted and production costs must be kept low. Mervin doesn't like carrying hay and he has located the stack right between the feed lot and the yard where the cows and the young stuff run. A couple of steps will put hay in front of either lot.

The cows and heifers run in an open shed in winter and are inside nights and usually outside during the daytime, eating straw or hay. Calves have been wintered in the stable in recent years but Mervin has decided that even this is too much pampering. Another year he plans to have a yard so they can run out in the daytime.

Mervin is astonished himself at the remarkable health of the entire herd, and notes that a veterinarian hasn't been on the place to look at a sick animal for five years.

"We never lose a calf," he said. Though shipping fever had struck several herds in the district, for no apparent reason it had stayed away from the Carruthers cattle. Since the cattle are outside they never suffer



D. D. Carruthers, senior member of this livestock-minded partnership, pauses from throwing straw into the manger, to discuss farm business with Mervin.

from hot, humid stables, and this may be one reason for their good health.

Adequate use is being made of grain in the rations. The cows get a gallon of oat and barley chop daily for a couple of months before freshening, and the steers in the feed lot are given free choice, a chopped mixture of four parts oats and five parts barley.

The cattle eat a lot of straw and hay too, but it's the hay and grass that has caught Mervin's fancy now. A neighbor, Allan Arnott, who owns a forage harvester, helped him put a field of grass and weeds into a pit silo last summer and the steers licked it up like apples during the winter. They did so well on it that he plans to buy a forage harvester himself, dig another trench and make a lot more silage this summer. He took so many nutrients from every acre of that poor grass and weed growth last summer that he is planning a few acres of permanent pasture.

THERE is no one more certain than Mervin that it pays to keep expenses down and labor light on beef farms; and he isn't the only one in his district with such thoughts. Allan Arnott is aiming for the same efficiency, though he is just beginning in the cattle business. Allan returned after the war from active service with the air force, and went into partnership with his father, R. V. Arnott. He moved onto the family farm on which his father has lived since the early 1870's.



A trench silo (foreground) cured grass and clover silage on the Arnott farm.

Allan has hesitated since returning home, wondering, as the price of cattle went higher and higher, how best to get started. While he now has a herd of 13 breeding females, he plans to replace some of the dairy-type cows with beef cattle. In the meantime he has cut his work at chore time by letting the cows run loose in the shelter of the stable where they were once stanchion-tied, and by feeding them outside where they relax during the days.

Allan is discovering that it is a costly process to build up a breeding herd and get that necessary foothold in the business. In spite of a healthy herd and a system of management that reduces the winter's work, it is still a struggle to get established: but with a herd of good cattle as the goal, it is worth a lot of work and planning to get there.

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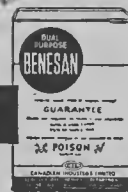
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One full rate application of BENESAN (2 oz. per bushel) kills up to 75% of all wireworms. Apply BENESAN to your spring grain . . . reduce wireworm population to the point where wireworm damage will be negligible for 3 to 4 years. Costs less than one dollar per acre.

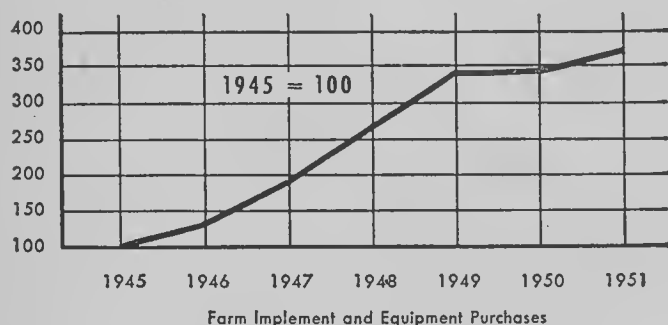
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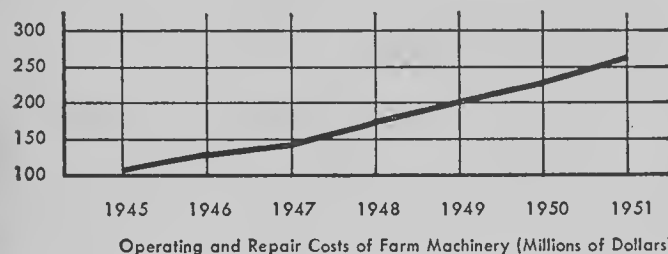




Good maintenance of your equipment protects your investment. Machinery represents one of the major outlays on the Canadian farm to-day. 1951 Census figures show the average machinery investment per farm exceeds \$3,000. For some farmers it runs as high as \$5,000.



The chart illustrates the rapid rise in machinery purchases by Canadian farmers since 1945.



The accompanying chart shows how the costs of operating and repairing the increased amount of machinery and equipment have been rising. This increase indicates the need for a continuing maintenance programme designed to keep your machines operating efficiently.



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Grazing

Continued from page 9

the province are making good silage without preservatives.

Preservatives add to the cost of silage. Where molasses is used, the recommended rate is 80 pounds added to each ton of mature grass, and double that amount for each ton of damp or immature field product. Ground grain is sometimes used at the rate of 125 to 150 pounds per ton of alfalfa or sweet clover, 75 pounds per ton of grass or cereal forage, and from 100 to 125 pounds per ton of a grass legume mixture. Silage put up in wet weather may benefit by adding five to 15 per cent of dry hay to absorb the excess moisture.

Practical experience suggests that wilting can be dispensed with when making grass or grass-legume silage. If a straight legume is used, wilting for a few hours is recommended, although many farmers seem to ignore this precaution. Last summer, Sam Gurr cut his silage when it was quite immature; and put it into the silo without either wilting, or adding preservatives. Nevertheless, he would agree that wilting, preservatives, or even allowing it to stand a few more days before cutting, would have reduced risk of spoilage and saved some nutrient-rich liquids that drained away.

The field forage harvester is popular for chopping the grass before ensiling it. The crop can be cut and windrowed with a mower attachment, or with a side-delivery rake, then picked up by the harvester and cut into a box hauled behind. A cutter-bar on the forage harvester eliminates the need for a mower; and it is also simpler to haul the cut grass from the field in a box than to load the long hay onto racks. Cutting and chopping immediately with a forage harvester make wilting impossible; and, especially with moist legumes, may necessitate adding dry, chopped hay, or preservatives.

Sam Gurr uses his forage harvester for picking up bedding behind the combine in the fall. He finds that in a few days he can blow a full winter's bedding into the loft. The chopped straw makes very excellent bedding. It not only absorbs moisture readily, but the short lengths are not so likely to be kicked to the back of the stall.

SOME western farmers have had long and successful experience with trench silos. From D. A. Brown, assistant superintendent, Experimental Farm, Brandon, we learned that Charles Price and his son, Herb, of Wawota, Saskatchewan, dug their trench silo in 1926. They borrowed a corn binder and cutting box from the Brandon Farm for putting the corn crop away. The silo was dug 50 feet long, 20 feet wide, sloping to 12 feet at the bottom and eight feet deep. The walls were concreted to three feet above the ground, and poles run to a ridge pole to keep off snow.

Wawota is not a good corn district. The Prices gave it up and began to make silage out of weeds, slough hay, wild-oat hay and trimmings from the edges of fields. In 1934 and 1936 feed was very short. In those years, the Prices put up Russian thistle, sow thistle, pigweed and slough hay. Some of the resulting silage was sent to the Chemistry Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, and

was found to be a satisfactory feed. The Prices fed it to their stock throughout the winter, with results that confirmed the Ottawa finding.

The concreting of walls is not considered necessary. If the side walls are sloped so that the silage will not draw away from the walls as it settles, the air will be kept out satisfactorily. The bottom of the silo should carry a slight slope from one end to the other to allow drainage. Some sort of cover to keep snow out of the silo is helpful, if convenient, but even if a cover is provided, the top of the silo should be sealed with two inches of wet straw, a covering of chopped, dry hay, or an inch or two of oats. If the top foot of silage is chopped short it packs better and helps seal the silo.

Drainage is simple if the silo can be cut into the side of a hill. Sam Gurr lacks satisfactory drainage, and removes excess liquids with a sump pump. He sacrificed good drainage for the convenience of having the trench against the barn. He has a bank barn and he put the silo right against it, at right angles, and opened a hole through the barn foundation so that he could walk from the barn into the silo and feed directly to the mangers.

GRASS silage has been fed successfully to beef and dairy cattle, sheep and sows. There are probably not many reports of it as feed for poultry, but Sam Gurr had good success feeding it to his flock of capons. In the summer of 1951 he had a rank growth of clover and oats in draws on the farm. As it approached maturity, he ensiled it and fed it to his 400 capons. They ate the swollen kernels and the rest of the silage, and would not eat the remainder of their ration. When the packer buyer came to bid on them, he said they must have been fed on cracked corn, because they were as fat as butter.

The trench is not the only way of preserving silage. Some farmers are making circles of snow-fencing, lining them with building paper and blowing in chopped hay or legumes. The feed is tramped into four heights of snow fencing or less and has made satisfactory silage. Others make silage in stacks, driving over them with tractors and loads to pack them down. Spoilage may be heavy in such stacks, unless they are large, and the method is not recommended for small acreages.

Some farmers in Minnesota and Wisconsin have successfully dispensed with the feed chopper. They put long hay into the silo, packed it in tight and found that it made good feed. They report that it is no more difficult to take out of the silo than the ordinary cut material.

Other farmers and dairymen in the cornbelt use forage harvesters to cut grass and then feed the chopped feed at once, never permitting the cattle to graze. Land prices are high and they argue that the cattle destroy too much good feed by tramping it down. They claim that more pounds of beef and milk can be produced from an acre of land by bringing feed to the stock 12 months in the year.

This practice has a definite relationship to silage making. Both are intended to produce the maximum quantity of nutrients and, ultimately, the maximum amounts of beef and milk per acre. Anything that increases the nutrients per acre reaching the feed manger, increases pounds of beef or gallons of milk and raises the standard of living of the man owning the herd.



From the booklet "A Revolution in Weed Control," issued by Man. Dept. of Agriculture.

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A combination of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. Effective on all Brush Killing work in pastures, right-of-ways, headlands and roadsides.

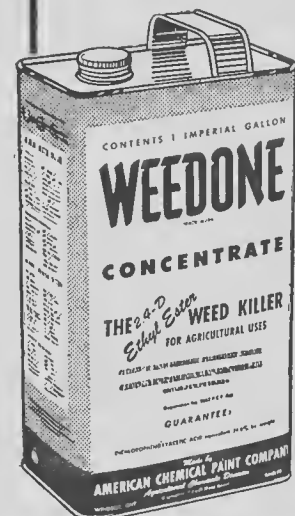
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Meadow Lake Magic

How one man changed the face of a town with flowers, lawns and trees

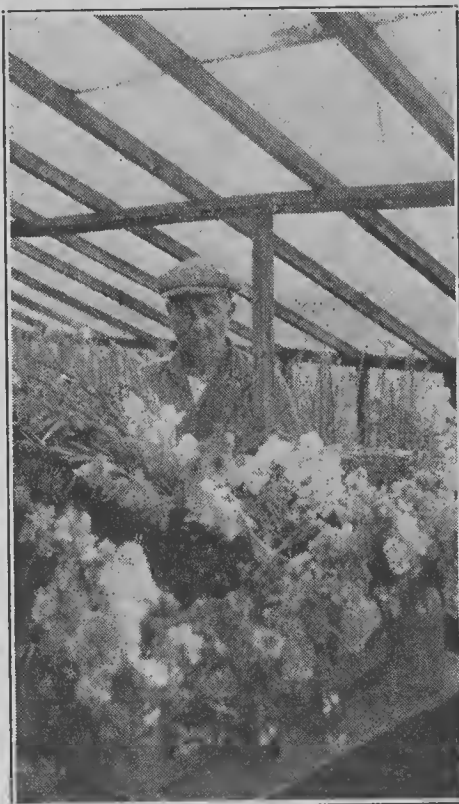
by ERMA J. COLLIER

PRIMITIVELY unshaven and unshorn until recently, the frontier town of Meadow Lake, Sask., at 54 degrees north latitude, has begun in earnest to mow its lawns, trim its hedges, and take the grass whip to its unruly cowlicks. It is turning from annuals to perennials planning parks, planting trees, holding garden competitions and flower shows. Unprejudiced school children stop on the dead run to ask home gardeners whether their plants started from cuttings or from seed; are they hybrids, annuals or perennials? In short, Meadow Lake citizens, oldsters, youngsters, in-between folk, and farmers, are becoming horticulture conscious. And why?

One reason for all this planting and grooming is to be found on the outskirts of the town, where the most northerly commercial nursery in Saskatchewan is located. It is known as Sandall Nurseries, and its proprietor, Ernest Sandall—"Ernie" as he is known to all—is the community mentor in all things horticultural.

It began away back in the '30's when, quiet and unassuming, he used to walk about the tables of exhibits at rural fairs, enterprises which were fairly common in the North during the settlement period. Homesteaders would engage him in conversation at the side of the table where proudly they had displayed enormous peas, Picaninny corn, or Russian cucumbers. "What do you think of the stuff we grow in our neck of the woods?" they would ask him. In this way many friendships were born.

Strangely enough, when prosperity began to creep in, the country fairs ceased. Farmers were too busy filling Meadow Lake's six elevators with grain, to go in for garden stuff and flowers. Ernie Sandall almost became the forgotten man. In their first feverish attempts the settlers had tried out almost everything on their grey bush soil. Faced with the problem of subsistence, they produced what they could not buy. Larger clearings and war prices diverted their attention to field crops, and they dropped horticulture almost entirely when they got "in the chips." Now, however, with the



Ernie Sandall in his greenhouse.

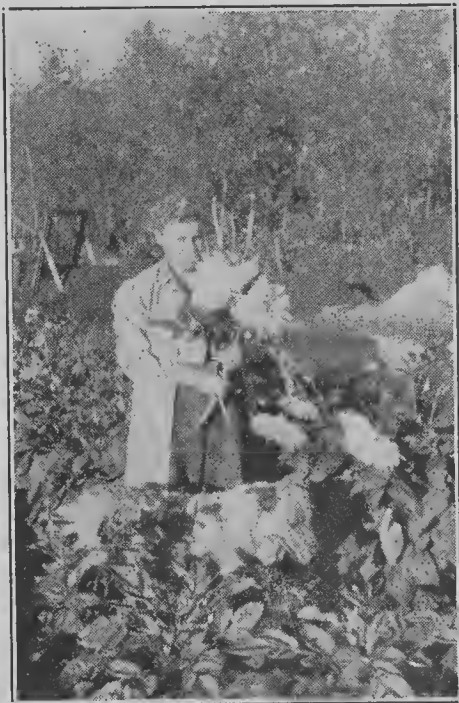
making of permanent homes and the occasional farmer retiring and moving into town, there is a great renewal of interest in horticulture, and Ernie Sandall is again able to stimulate and direct this interest.

FARMERS are beginning to listen to him again. As he watches the prosperous farmer reach into his back pocket and pull out five or six thousand dollars to pay for a combine, Mr. Sandall silently remembers "way back when" this man arrived in Meadow Lake a bewildered refugee from the dried out area, actually not so many years ago. Now Mr. Sandall is telling farmers that in spite of all their well-deserved prosperity, he deplores what in many cases have been indiscriminate slashing of the bush. He feels that many settlers have not left a suitable portion of the bush in strategic positions to stop soil-drifting by wind and water erosion, to hold the snow, to cut down drying winds, and thus to maintain a favorable moisture supply.

Coming from a horticultural family, Ernest Sandall has a rich background for his vocation. In the formative years of his boyhood in England, and later at Paradise Hill, Saskatchewan, his father was a distinguished horticulturist, and his home was a showplace which attracted many visitors.

Mr. Sandall began his public service in the North with the Department of Municipal Affairs in 1936-39, when he set up 50 demonstration plots in local improvement districts across the northern part of the province. These plots were primarily for the purpose of familiarizing incoming settlers with varieties of fruits and vegetables suitable to their locality. From 1940 to 1947 he worked with the Department of Agriculture, becoming the most northerly agricultural representative in the province; and the first one for this area, which comprised Big Bush as its southern limit, Big River, Leo-ville, Spiritwood, and Meadow Lake. He also found time to author a couple of widely used pamphlets on northern gardening.

During his tenure as "Ag. Rep,"



Mrs. Sandall and dahlias, with compost pile and natural windbreak in the background.



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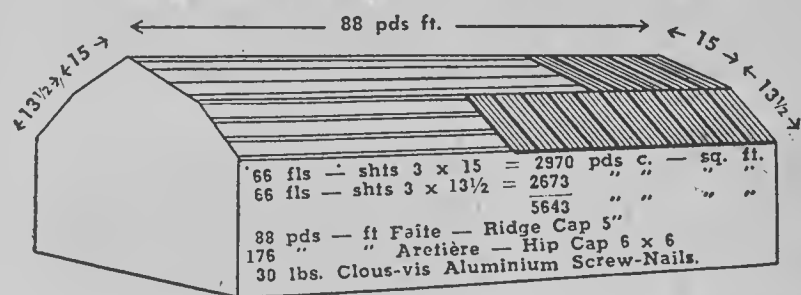
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Ernie Sandall pioneered the commercial nursery business at Spruce Lake, at the same time serving on the village council as overseer. It was at Spruce Lake that he met and married Mrs. Sandall. They lived there for ten happy years and cherish many memories of friendships and social life. Their leaving was necessitated, unfortunately, by the limited scope for business expansion at that point.

ACQUIRING property at Meadow Lake on October 11, 1944, the Sandalls (Mrs. Sandall is a constant partner in all her husband's endeavors) hastily erected greenhouses, threw up a place of abode, and moved in on October 26. They managed to get the last door on the last greenhouse the day it started to snow. In 1945 they experienced a devastating hailstorm which broke all the glass into small pieces. It was only with great difficulty, due to war shortages, that they were able to get it replaced by fall.

Thus it is that in less than a decade, Mr. and Mrs. Sandall have grubbed their ten-acre nursery out of the bush and produced a thriving business comprising three departments, nursery stock, bedding plants, and a florist department. Stock from Sandall Nurseries now goes as far south as Saskatoon, as far north as Beauval and Ile a la Crosse, and east and west to an ever-extending area.

Two winter horticulture classes under the government sponsored Adult Education plan, with Mr. Sandall as instructor, provided the springboard for a small but enthusiastic horticultural society. With the co-operation of the town council, this group initiated

"I know it's tough, Podner, but when a hoss breaks a leg all you can do is shoot 'im."



a program of tree planting along the parkways. Demonstration lessons by the school principal, an ardent pupil of Mr. Sandall, to the classes of the elementary school, enlisted the labor of the children in town beautification. Now, in place of vandalism, Meadow Lake's children take a genuine pride in the growing beauty of their town. The landscaped school garden, done entirely by the pupils and teachers from Sandall blueprints, is considered by many to be the loveliest spot in town. In fact, Mr. Sandall gives free charting service to all who ask, a service which, in a city, would cost \$50 to \$100.

To those who have got to the stage where they are wondering what to plant, Mr. Sandall throws out this warning, "Never buy exotic varieties which, though showy and hardy in

other climates, may not be winter-hardy here." Check first with your Ag. Rep. or the nearest experimental farm, or university. "Thousands of dollars are wasted every year," Mr. Sandall says, "on stuff that is out of its climatic range."

Though a hard worker, Mr. Sandall is no believer in drudgery. Wherever possible, he believes in "trading space for labor," which, translated, means that on the farm at least, fruit trees, small-fruit shrubs, windbreaks and hedges, should be planted far enough apart that they can be cultivated with the farm machinery. He advises against the practice followed in the East where they prune fruit trees to one stem. "Grow your trees in bush form, keeping a good deal of the bearing wood below the snowline, thus preventing sun-scald." This is sound

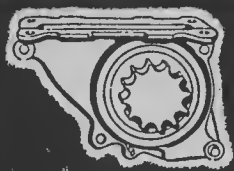
Sandall advice. His own orchard makes use of a north and west windbreak of natural bush. Natural, or otherwise, Ernie considers a previously prepared windbreak an essential for an orchard.

A born teacher, Ernie Sandall likes to start the beginner out with varieties that are reasonably sure of rewarding an amateur gardener with success; but he also likes to see him try out a few varieties which are a challenge to his skill as a gardener. Because he is an adventurer and a learner himself, he likes to see new varieties tried out; but because he is practical, he prefers to depend on proven varieties for production. For example, if one were starting an orchard, he would probably start him out with a few red-jelly crabs, such as Dolgo, and a few cherry-plum hybrids.

As may be expected, Sandall Nurseries is a profusion of bloom. Annuals feature the Kirkwell aster, all-double petunia, and the handsome Tetra snapdragon. It is the perennials, however, which are Ernie Sandall's pride and joy; and when the town children come to him, as they often do, for annual bedding plants for their flower gardens, Mr. Sandall usually persuades them to take one or two perennials as well. It is his challenge to childhood. Mr. Sandall believes that bleeding heart, iris, delphiniums and peonies are perennial "musts" for everybody.

Thus it is that this most northerly nursery challenges both the young and old to grow lovely things. The pace has been set, and homemakers are taking up the challenge. Each year there are fewer unkempt streets, an added loveliness to the town gardens, boulevards, and parkways, and to the grounds surrounding farm homes.

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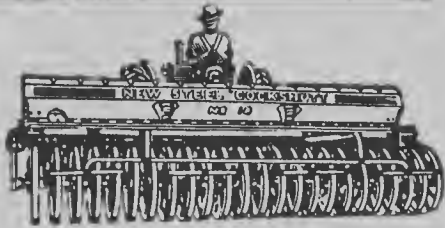


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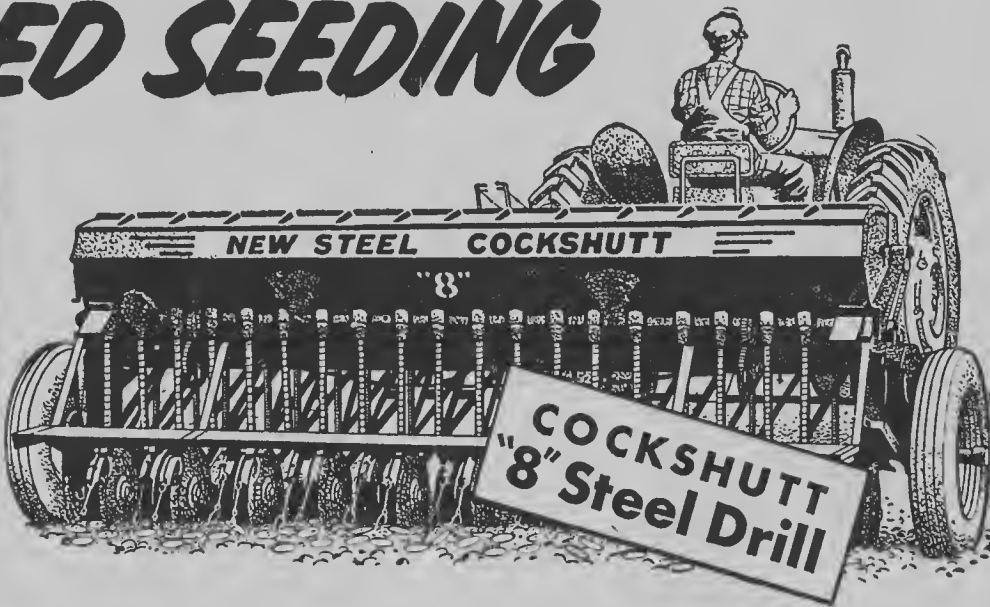


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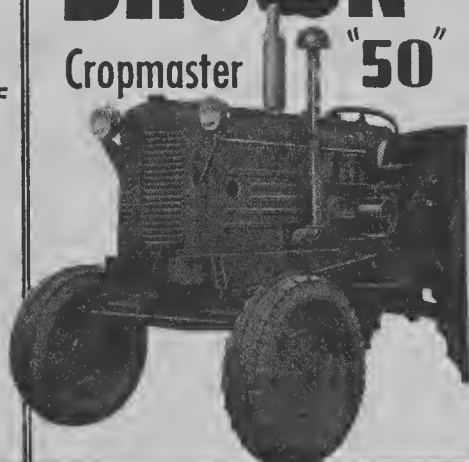
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The Fine Art of Persuasion

by FRANK JACOBS

IN the spring a young man's fancy may turn lightly to thoughts of love, but just as soon as the days are long enough to eat breakfast without the light on, the Household Boss begins thinking about chickens.

Actually, I don't mind chickens. It's just that the H.B. isn't business-like about the way she handles them. There are lots of birds worse than hens — turkeys, ducks, geese, especially geese. Last fall I helped Bill Alder overhaul his combine. He had geese. Every time I crawled under that combine I said some pretty mean things about geese. Geese are O.K. flying just overhead in October, when you've got a long-barrelled twelve-gauge with a full choke—but keep them out of the barnyard!

Two weeks ago I began computing, as the form says, my income tax. Ever since income tax grew teeth I've kept records on the farm. Chickens have never made us one dollar. Flock's too small. To operate an economic unit you should have at least five hundred birds—otherwise you go through all the motions and just don't get sufficient returns. The H.B. doesn't agree.

"Look at that hostess chair," she said, pointing to a big milk-stool with a back-rest and a plush seat. "I bought that with egg money. And without chickens how would I have been able to buy Heather's clothes?" Heather is our younger daughter. She is at the University this year. "I suppose you'd like to see Heather ashamed of her clothes."

(My son-in-law, Art, calls that kind of argument Feminine Logic. Trying to argue against Feminine Logic, says Art, is like trying to lasso a gopher with a logging chain.)

"SURE you get a lot of money," I said, "but that wasn't profit. To find what your profit is you should subtract the cost of your labor, the feed, the building deprec—"

"There you go again, begrudging me a little chicken feed," she was almost crying, "and it isn't as if I asked you for money. That's all the thanks I get for brooding chicks and gathering eggs! Some wives won't even bother with chickens,"

I could have replied pretty nicely to that, but I didn't say anything. I could sense some Feminine Logic coming, along with some tears—and likely a cold supper—so I went out to the barn.

Supper was pretty fair that night, but I figured I better leave chicken

politics alone for a day or two. Next Sunday Art and Jean came over for supper. When the women had finished the dishes and I had given the cows their evening hay, we sat talking in the living room.

"Started to figure your income tax yet?" I asked Art, a little louder than I needed to.

"Pretty well got it licked," said Art. "Won't hurt too bad this year."

"Been working on mine the last few days," I said, keeping my voice pretty loud. "Made a fair profit on most everything but the poultry—costs just equal returns; actually lose money if we counted all the hard work Mother does."

Nobody said anything. I wasn't looking at the H.B. but I could feel her looking at me, and it felt like a pretty hard look.

"Just broke even on my beef steers," said Art. It sounded funny hearing anybody say anything just then. "Lost on the bunch I sold in April, and just made it up on my grassers."

WELL, we talked about this and that, but not another word was said about chickens. Finally Art and Jean went home. The next morning we had the best breakfast we'd had since the time the minister stayed overnight. It weakened me and I was prepared to give in about the chickens.

"I've decided not to raise any chickens this year," said the H.B. as I finished my third cup of coffee. I choked on the last mouthful and she had to give me a few whacks between the shoulder blades.

"You're right," she added. There's no profit in them unless you have a big flock. A person would do better to work at something else."

"That's a wonderful breakfast," I said. I felt fine, but her mentioning "something else" should have warned me. I forgot about it, and for a week I really enjoyed every meal.

Yesterday after supper she began working over her bank book. As she was going out of chickens I was quite prepared to kick across with a few dollars periodically.

"Need any money?" I asked, trying to appear generous.

"Well, not really, but you'd better have fifty dollars on hand to pay for them when they arrive."

"Pay for what?" I asked. "What's going to cost fifty dollars?"

"Why," she said, "hadn't I told you? ... the goslings."



"Whew, I'm bushed! Let's stop and outnumber them."

Marketing Plan for Manitoba Beekeepers

Honey producers will vote this summer on a honey marketing plan applying only to honey produced in Manitoba

THE Manitoba Government has approved a vote on a honey marketing scheme, probably in July or August. All Manitoba honey producers who are registered in 1953, with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, by June 30 or such later date as may be fixed by the Minister, will be given the opportunity of voting on a province-wide co-operative honey marketing scheme, to be known as the Manitoba Honey Marketing Plan.

The scheme, if approved by at least 70 per cent of the registered honey producers who vote, will operate under the Manitoba Natural Products Marketing Act, and will be administered by five elected producers who will be known as the Manitoba Honey Marketing Board.

If the plan eventually goes into operation, it will be under the general supervision of the Manitoba Marketing Board, established under the Manitoba Natural Products Marketing Act; but the Honey Marketing Board will have full powers to conduct all the business of the scheme, while it is in existence. The Minister of Agriculture, or his agents, will have full access to any and all of the books and records of the Board, and may call for written reports on any of the activities of the Board at any time. If the scheme is approved by the producers during the coming summer, it would go into operation February 1, 1954.

Before the producer vote is taken, each registered producer will be supplied with a copy of the regulations which have been drawn up for the establishment of the scheme under the Manitoba Natural Products Marketing Act. If more than 70 per cent of the registered producers voting favor this scheme, the result of the vote will be considered by the government: if it is deemed satisfactory, final approval will be by order-in-council. A provisional board of five members will then be appointed by the government.

The Honey Marketing Board will be assisted by an advisory committee, representing the consumers and the trade, the four members of which will be appointed by the Manitoba Marketing Board. In all matters, however, the decision of the Honey Marketing Board will be absolute and final. The Manitoba Marketing Board will also be empowered to fill any vacancy which occurs on the Honey Marketing Board, by appointing a registered producer to hold office for the unexpired portion of the term. Also, the Manitoba Marketing Board will be empowered to settle all questions arising out of an election. It may declare any election null and void; and may appoint a registered producer to the board to fill any vacancy arising therefrom.

THE powers of the Honey Marketing Board are very broad. It will have all the powers of a body corporate; and may regulate and control the marketing of any honey produced in Manitoba, or prohibit such marketing in whole, or in part. This scheme will apply to all honey produced in Manitoba, and to honey products containing more than 50 per cent honey, of which the honey contained in them is produced in Manitoba. The Act will

apply to all persons, or agencies, producing or marketing the regulated product, except where a producer sells honey to another individual for consumption "by himself, or the members of his household, and delivery is taken by such person, in person, at the producers' residence, apiary, or honey extracting house."

The Board may regulate when, where, and by what agency a regulated product shall be marketed. It will determine grades, qualities and methods of distribution, and will be able to prohibit the marketing of any grade, quality or class, not designated as marketable by the board. It may licence all persons, and may fix, and collect, licence fees and direct charges, relating to the production and marketing of honey. It may cancel or suspend any licence, or exempt any person, or class of persons, from honey regulation, or order of the Board.

The Board will also be empowered to fix all prices at which any grade or class of any regulated product may be sold by producers in the province; and it may fix different prices for different parts of the province. It may also seize and dispose of any regulated product marketed contrary to any order of the Board, and if it sees fit, retain or dispose of the proceeds thereof.

Having all the powers of a body corporate, it may borrow or otherwise obtain money on the security of the assets of the Board. It may use these assets, in its discretion, in carrying out the purposes of the plan. If it is in the public interest to do so, and if the plan has gone into operation, the Minister may suspend the members of the Board, in which case the Manitoba Marketing Board will carry out the duties of the Honey Marketing Board, until the election of new members, or until the affairs of the scheme have been wound up, as the Minister may direct.

WHERE 50 or more registered producers petition the Minister for the discontinuance of the plan, or if he deems it to be in the public interest to do so, he may direct the Board to hold a plebiscite on that issue. If such a plebiscite has been held, the Minister has absolute discretion in determining whether the plan should be continued. Once a plebiscite has been held in this manner, another may not be held for a further two years, except on written direction of the Minister.

In 1952, there were 832 registered beekeepers in Manitoba. Of these, it is believed that from 60 to 65 per cent were beekeepers wholly, or substantially, dependent on revenue from beekeeping.

The scheme, as it will be presented to beekeepers, is said to be more or less similar to that operated in Saskatchewan for several years. An important consideration respecting the proposed scheme is that it will not in any way control the sale of honey produced in other provinces, and marketed in Manitoba. In other words, it is a scheme wholly within the powers of the Government of Manitoba to sanction, and is in no way dependent on powers vested in the Federal Government.



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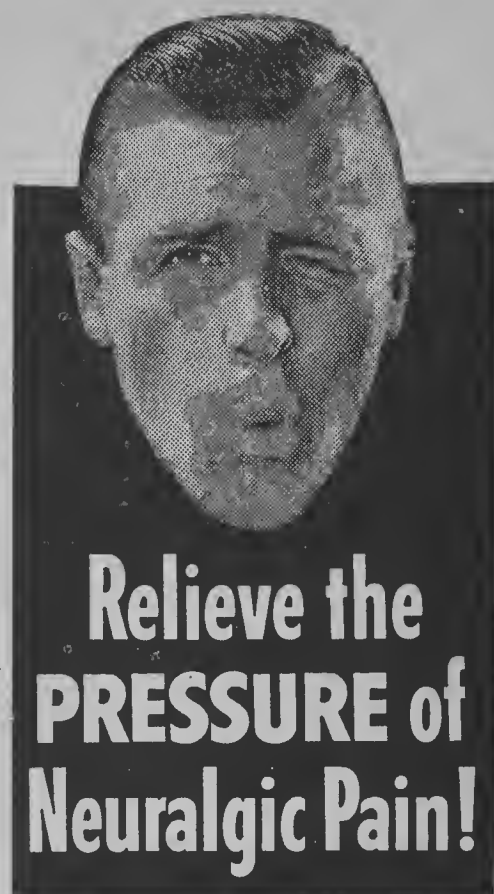
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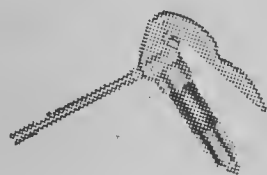
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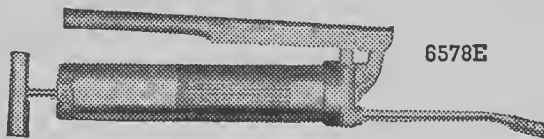
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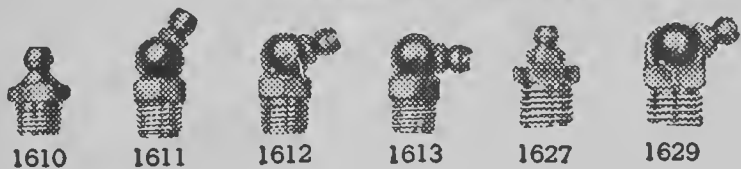


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Cattle Chatter

THE Council of the World Jersey Cattle Bureau, London, England, recently decided to hold the next world conference in Canada, in 1954.

FRIESIAN (Holstein) cattle won the Bledisloe Trophy for the fifth successive time at the London Dairy Show, England, in late October. It was almost a sweep for the Friesians, which won five of the eight inter-breed trophies and it was the second successive win for the individual champion.

SEVEN Aberdeen-Angus cows with an aggregate age of 135 years, which had produced 95 calves, are reported from New South Wales, Australia.

THE only Holstein bull in Canada to have four daughters, each producing 150,000 pounds of milk in their lifetime, is Baijo Dad Tensen, owned by William Bousquet, La Presentation, Quebec. Two of the daughters produced 167,534 pounds, and 159,735 pounds in eight lactations each, and two others 152,353 pounds and 151,247 pounds in nine lactations each. Of these four, Lisotte De La Presentation produced 30,602 pounds of milk containing 1,061 pounds fat, as an 11-year-old, in 365 days on twice-a-day milking.

BY a large majority, the Ayrshire Herd Book Society in Britain decided to discontinue the publication of an annual herd book, and to replace it by a system of pedigree registration certificates, to take effect January 1, 1953.

DURING 1951, the British Friesian Cattle Society had a membership of 10,284. Female registrations were double the 1946 figure, and the proportion bred by artificial insemination had increased from 7.77 per cent in 1950 to 10.53 per cent in 1951. This increase is believed responsible for the decline of bull registrations by more than 1,000.

RECENTLY at Perth, Scotland, at the dispersal sale of a herd of beef shorthorns belonging to A. J. Marshall, 240 lots brought £134,000. One hundred and thirteen cows sold in one day for the spectacular average of £614. Four bulls were sold in five minutes for £10,600.

KNOLLWOOD RAG APPLE GAY recently became the first cow of the Holstein breed in the United States to produce over 1,300 pounds fat in one year, on three times milking. Her record was 32,883.3 pounds of milk testing 4.03 per cent fat, to produce a total of 1,327 pounds fat in 365 days.

CORTISONE is a drug made from a cattle bile compound called desoxychloric. The process is extremely intricate, and originally required 37 separate steps. Moreover, to treat a single patient for one day, it originally required the bile acid from 40 head of cattle. Now, a U.S. company promises large-scale production of cortisone with the aid of a mold, of the type commonly associated with stale bread. The new process is a fermentation process similar to that used in making penicillin and other antibiotic drugs. By this process, cortisone can be made from progesterone.

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Knowledge and Its Ways

*Brief items, both curious and useful,
about mankind and the world about us*

Family photograph albums are not much in use now. Nevertheless, anthropologists, who deal with the origin, development and customs of mankind, may some day be able to compile a photograph album of the human family. Long and patient study of the camp sites of long-gone forms of man, reveals new information from time to time. One member of the family, the Folsom Man, who is believed to have been one of America's oldest inhabitants, living about 10,000 B.C., has been studied in a deposit of blue clay in New Mexico. After 27 years, a nearly complete human rib was found. Imagine a fond parent, many years hence, turning the pages of the human family album for his small son or daughter and, coming to the picture of this historic bone, saying, "that is Ancestor Folsom. He lived down in New Mexico."

The starch from surplus potatoes and corn may now be used to make a hard, glossy lacquer which will retain a high gloss and resist temperatures up to 400°F. It will be more resistant to heat and organic solvents than the best quality spar varnish. Allyl starch, made from ordinary starch and allyl chloride, dissolves easily in alcohol, acetone and other organic solvents. It can then be brushed or sprayed on wood, glass or metal. As the solvent evaporates, the allyl starch slowly hardens under the influence of oxygen in the air, and becomes not only insoluble in the organic solvents, but impervious to oil. It has been tested for furniture, wood and metal finishes, for some kinds of adhesives and as a carrier for printing ink.

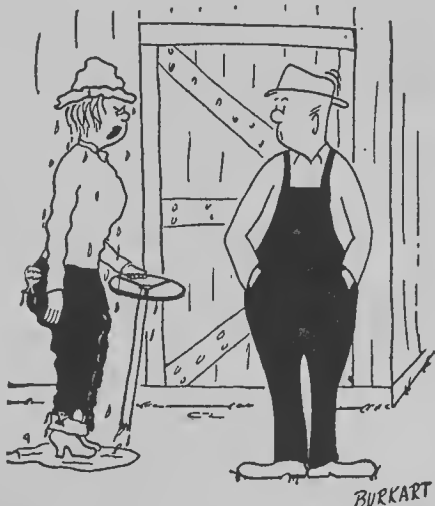
The prophet Ezekiel was a top-flight observer of important meteorological phenomena, says Dr. Donald H. Menzel, Professor of Astrophysics at Harvard College Observatory. Ezekiel, says Dr. Menzel, saw flying saucers and recorded their appearance accurately. Remember the Negro spiritual, "Ezekiel Saw the Wheel"? Ezekiel's wheel, says Dr. Menzel, or more properly, his vision of wheels within wheels, suggests that he was looking at the well-known solar halos, complete with mock suns, a phenomenon produced by ice crystals in the sky. Ezekiel's four living creatures would be mock suns, and the arms of the cross centered on the sun, perhaps looked like the spokes of a wheel, with each bright spoke forming the body of a figure, the head of which would be the mock sun itself. Dr. Menzel records that there was a previous flying saucer scare in 1897, and that a great cigar-shaped saucer was seen in 1882. This one was the best observed of all flying saucers in history, because a number of distinguished scientists reported having seen it.

Tractor gas from decaying vegetable matter, may be a future commercial possibility. West German chemists have manufactured gas in this way for use as tractor fuel, or fuel for heating. Waste collected from municipal sewage systems was first used; and later, material found on the average farm, which could be composted. Tests have been continued for long enough to

show that after manure and farm wastes have been used for gas formation, their fertility value has not been lessened. The new gas is called "Bihugas," from biological humus gas. Compressed in steel bottles, or cylinders to about 3,000 pounds per square inch, 8,000 cubic meters of this gas was found, under test, to equal the motor fuel power of 1,100 gallons of petrol.

The home permanent wave, which is said to have a definite effect on the pride and pulchritude of some portions of the female human population, developed, appropriately enough, out of research designed to reclaim wool. Bringing wool that has been woven and dyed, back to the condition of raw, white fibre, normally reduces its springiness, warmth and wearability. Wool fibres are made up of long, chain-like molecules, connected by twin atoms of sulphur, called di-sulphide links. These are easily injured by very hot water, strong soap and many chemicals. When a chemical process, developed 10 or 12 years ago, strengthened the delicate sulphide links by adding more rugged groups of carbon and hydrogen atoms, the process was too costly for commercial use and was side-tracked to the home permanent wave. Today, the method has been made applicable to wool as a result of continuing research, and reclaimed wool of greater warmth, strength and fluffiness is now possible.

This is something for the men: Scientists have now proved that the male human is one-half per cent more tongue-tied than the female. A geneticist at George Washington University tested the ability of 865 persons to roll and fold the tongue. They found that 3.7 per cent of the females tested could both roll and fold their tongues, while only 1.9 per cent of the males could do both. When it came to the number of men and women who could neither roll nor fold their tongues, there were only 26 per cent of the girls who could do neither, while 26.5 per cent of the men suffered this disability. If it is true that the solution of any problem depends on a thorough understanding of it, man's best hope is that the scientists at George Washington University will just keep on until some day man may, perhaps, win complete freedom from his bondage to woman.



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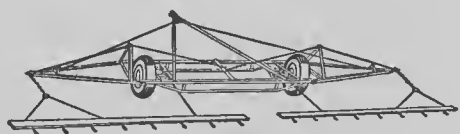
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Matter of Taste

Continued from page 12

50 acres, and again in 1952. But what with bad weather, I only harvested a 50 per cent crop. But even that brought in \$2,500. Eddie Jacobson, over near Coaldale, made \$4,300 off 40 acres of mustard."

He pulled forward his plaid cap, shielding his eyes against the strong sun.

"There's a fellow over near Raymond—I forget his name—had a volunteer crop of mustard from seed that shattered in the fall, a whole quarter-section of it. By the beginning of June, it was already up to his knees. Lots of fellows have made real good money with volunteer mustard."

Mustard seems to require plenty of sunshine for growth and development. Although the tap root reaches far down in search of moisture, mustard still welcomes rainfall. Heavy rains in 1951 produced a bumper crop in the fields. If that had all been harvested, the acreage last year would have had to be even more drastically reduced. It takes about a year to work off a large surplus.

Due, however, to those heavy rains and early snows, the seed was not all harvested. Some got nipped by frost, which brought down the grades. Some was left over until spring for combining, and a good part of this was usable, though at lower grades. Some crops were lost entirely.

"Sure, mustard's a gamble," Dale Cassidy concluded. "For that matter, any crop is. But I figure that mustard is a safer gamble than, say, flax. And it more than breaks even with wheat, in my experience."

WE returned to Lethbridge to follow the mustard seed through the mill there. It was pleasantly cool in the office, and later in the mill itself.

"Any contract crop has certain advantages," Mr. Knowlton pointed out. "With us, the grower gets the seed at an advance. It's not paid for until harvest, which is a very nice thing when a farmer is short of cash in spring. Then, at harvest, he can have all, or part, of his cash payment within five minutes. You see, we've had government grading since August 1, 1947, and a sample of every load is taken to the grading laboratory here in Lethbridge. If he needs the money, the grower can have a good proportion of it even before we know what the exact grading is going to be."

The first seed-cleaning operation is a good deal like that for wheat. The seeds may go into storage after this preliminary cleaning, or directly on to the next cleaner, a vibrating-screen type. In the regular routine, they get a third cleaning in the Carter Disk, from which they are carried down an elevator leg into a sacking bin. From there, they go into labelled bags.

In fact, some seeds get three more cleaning operations, if necessary. The gravity separator which employs the flotation process may be used, though it is slow. But a double bank of spiral cleaners, working entirely by gravity, performs quickly and efficiently.

Seed that is to be used for planting goes through still one more process, a very specialized hand-picked business. The cleaned seed pours slowly along moving belts toward several operators, who sit poised with air-suction tubes to remove any foreign or unworthy

particle. Then this super-cleaned seed slides down a leg, and into waiting sacks.

"So you see, anyone who thinks that our Alberta seed isn't thoroughly cleaned will have to revise that opinion," he said with a smile. "Oh yes, we've had some gripes, occasionally, from people who think that Montana seed is superior to Canadian. Actually, it's the same thing. About two million pounds of Alberta mustard seed was shipped south of the border last year. Often it's even bagged with a Montana miller's name right on it here in Lethbridge, under contract with Montana millers."

WHERE does all the mustard go? How much does the average Canadian consume anyway?

"It's not so much the mustard that's eaten, as what's left on the plate," is the waggish but inaccurate explanation. It is hard to tell exactly how much we consume as individuals. We don't always know it's there, in fact.

Quite a lot of mustard flour and oil of mustard goes into medications of various kinds. Mustard oil, like oil of pepper, is employed in some kinds of liniment. And certainly the mustard foot-bath, or that old standby the mustard plaster, are still standard remedies for knocking out a cold.

Another wide use for mustard is in the pickling factories. Mustard pickles are as powerful favorites today, as in your childhood when mother put up quarts of mustard beans, or cauliflower. The whole seeds go into pickles, too, to congregate at the bottom of a jar of sliced cucumbers, say. A small proportion goes into ready-to-heat soups. The salad-dressing manufacturers use it in huge quantity, as do many of the meat-packing companies. And, of course, both dry and prepared mustards are found in every grocery across the country.

Canada's one and only mustard mill is in Hamilton, Ontario. The G. S. Dunn Co. has been grinding out mustard flour for three generations now. It's a woman's business. Mrs. G. S. Dunn is the owner, her daughter-in-law Mrs. Owen Dunn is president, and Miss Margaret Stringle is manager of the plant. Indeed, to go back a couple of centuries, you'll find that it was a Mrs. Clements of Durham, England, who invented the process of milling mustard flour.

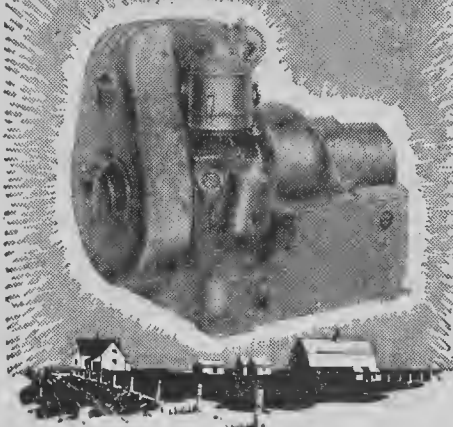
Mrs. Clements in 1720 crushed the seeds of wild mustard and squeezed out the oil. The remaining hard cake she broke up, and bolted through the finest muslin she could buy.

That is still the process, for the most part, though with modern machinery. The mustard seed is "decorticated" (husked) and the core is ground into flour. Formerly the husk was discarded, since it has relatively little flavor. But today the demand for the bran much exceeds the supply. This mild-flavored ingredient goes into prepared bottle mustard—the kind that horrifies the die-hards, who think mustard should be mixed at table, and of a strength to scorch your tongue.

Most commercial mustards are a careful blend of seeds of various qualities and origins. Most customers, such as chili sauce makers, order specific blends according to their code formulas. Depending upon its use, the client may require the cheapest grade or the finest, the hottest Oriental or the blandest yellow. It's all a matter of taste.

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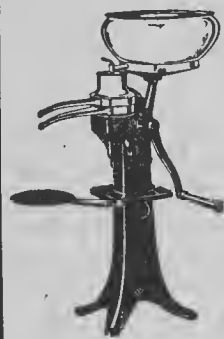
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Moving the Big Barn

THIS is about a big barn, 36 ft. wide, by 44 ft. long and 32 ft. high. It was moved from the farm of Henry Heers, about seven miles east of Hackett, to the John Jones farm, about three miles south of Byemoor—a distance of about 18 miles.

C. G. Bysterveld, contractor, of Delbourne, Alberta, was responsible for the big job, and the mechanical power was supplied by a five-seven-ton truck, which looked very tiny and inadequate compared with the monstrous bulk it guided.

A start was made one Wednesday afternoon in late fall, by getting the big barn out of its field and onto the main road. The following day, they moved it about six-and-a-half miles, when one wheel went down on the edge of a soft grade. There they stuck until noon the next day. Again they started, progressed two miles and again stuck. Hydraulic jack and big timbers were now made to do their bit, and the willing hands of those concerned and of others watching, jacked up the barn.

Finally they thought they were ready to pull out from this soft spot, when a second wheel fell in, and all was to be done again. It was now well into Saturday and they were a long way from home.



This is the big barn on the move.

Good luck was with them as they made another start, and after planking their way along several lengthy grades, they arrived at the railway crossing at Byemoor, on Saturday evening. Here the railway linemen let the telegraph wires down.

On Monday morning, without further mishap, the last short stage of the trip was made and the barn, little the worse for its adventures, came safely to rest on the foundation prepared for it.

In addition to the two men from Delbourne, six others helped with the unusual task: George, Frank, Eric, Johnny and Cliff Jones, and Buster Walker. Many spectators were along the route at different times, and even to those who saw it, it seemed almost incredible that so cumbersome a structure should turn so many corners without tearing up the whole countryside.

Not since the day that saw the coming of the first railway train into Byemoor has there been anything like the moving of the big barn. — Mrs. Edwin N. Myers, Alta.

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Try Something New This Year

*Make your garden more interesting by
trying to grow something no one else has*

by V. M. SCHEMP

GARDENING is a wonderful hobby, and nothing adds quite as much zest to its pursuit, even by the most confirmed gardener, as trying something new and different. True, many varieties won't grow under our severe western conditions, but there are a number of queer examples of Dame Nature's sense of humor, which will thrive from one side of Canada to the other. Don't ever believe you cannot grow things in your garden, unless you have tried them yourself. Conditions vary so much within a mile, in some areas, that one garden will produce luscious miniature melons, while the same variety never gets past the blossom stage before frost, in other gardens half-a-mile distant. Soil, shelter, moisture conditions and watering facilities all vary so much that it is impossible to say, for certain, just what varieties will survive in your own garden. With this in mind, it is a good idea to try a couple of brand new kinds each year, of either vegetable or flower seeds. The results are often surprising.

Many of these, I admit, are failures in my district. But some are really practical, though you find them classed as novelties. One example was the early white scalloped bush squash, which turned out a compact little plant, loaded down with the prettiest little squashes I've seen; smooth, white, and circular in shape, with edges scalloped like a paper doily. But the remarkable thing about them was that they grew and produced fruits in prodigious quantities, where no other squash would grow. They require a shorter growing season than ordinary squash, and their flavor was pronounced excellent by squash-loving friends. They are usually listed among the summer types, but are also good keepers.

The next year I decided to try melons. Everybody said I was wasting my time, but being stubborn, I ordered a packet of Farnorth muskmelons. They came up; tiny, delicate plants, surely too small to ever bear fruit. The blossoms were small, too, and the vines never did grow very large, but they put their energy into raising a crop of the smallest, sweetest muskmelons I ever ate. As long as we remained on sandy soil, they produced a crop unfailingly, dry years or wet; but here in the heavier soil, which takes so much longer to warm up in the spring or after rains, they are not quite as productive and never quite as early. But I have never omitted to plant them since.

The garden huckleberries were a doubtful triumph. Oh, they grew... husky plants, simply loaded with shiny green fruit which later turned black. Again I beamed with my success, until I tried to use the fruit, which had such a bitter flavor nobody would eat it. But anyway, it grew.

Like most amateur gardeners, I had a whirl at growing the world's largest vegetables with varied results. The huge pumpkins had barely begun to bloom when frost took them. The immense cabbages didn't weigh 30 to 40 pounds, but there certainly were some whoppers. The giant winter radish grew as large as turnips, but

though we tried manfully, we never developed a liking for them. Some of our European friends, however, fell on them with joyous cries of recognition; it seems they are in great favor as a winter relish in some parts of Europe.

As the years went by and my enthusiasm for new varieties waxed rather than waned, I learned to limit myself to two new varieties a year, to keep my testing grounds from crowding out the more practical types. Also, I determined to try midget vegetables which might be more suited to our growing season than standard varieties.

This really did bring results. Eventually I discovered Dorinny sweet corn, which was even earlier than the squaw corn, the only kind successfully grown in our district year in and year out. With Dorinny, I could count on a crop every year. It was the same with cucumbers; the very smallest varieties were the best bet for our short season. Of course, I still chased after my rainbows; I tried water-melons year after year only to have them freeze before maturing, but the immature fruits made wonderful, tender, crisp pickles.

Farming in Korea

BEFORE 1941, Korea was able to export annually about 200,000 tons of rice, 30,000 to 40,000 head of cattle and about 1,300 tons of silk thread. At the present time livestock has been reduced in number to the point where tillage of the land is difficult and the United Nations, through F.A.O. and the United Nations Korea Reconstruction Agency, is developing a five-year agricultural rehabilitation program.

Fifty-six per cent of South Koreans are farmers. The land is hilly and less than one-fourth of the total area is devoted to agriculture, which means that the land is overcrowded. Five or six people must live on each 2½ acres and until more industry is developed, the number of farmers cannot be reduced. As a result the need is very great for developing maximum yield from the area now cropped, and for securing the best soil utilization.

South Korean farmers pay high income tax, and those who have received land must pay a high percentage of their crops as compensation to former owners. The result is that the farmer has little chance to buy new equipment, or essential supplies. The loss and destruction of implements by the war, exaggerates this condition. Furthermore, only the small garden tools, pumps and sprayers as used in American and European agriculture are suitable.

A three-month survey of Korean agriculture was made some time ago on behalf of F.A.O., by R. L. DuPasquier, former director of agriculture in Indo-China. Of Korean livestock he says, "Korean cattle are gentle, easy to train, resistant to poor diet and bad living conditions. They are small animals with narrow hips, not strong enough for deep plowing, and their meat return is low. The cows are generally thin and produce just enough milk for the calves."

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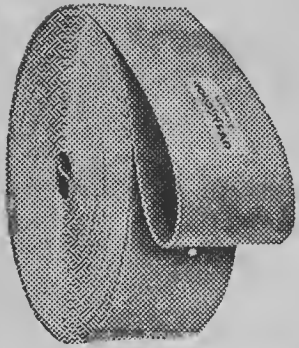
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Irrigated Pastures

Continued from page 15

weeks old, to avoid accidents from trampling.

Good fences are a prime essential for successful irrigated pasture management. Lack of adequate fencing constantly keeps an operator in difficulties with his neighbor and himself. A woven-wire fence, with treated posts a rod apart and two barbed wires on top, is the most satisfactory fence for sheep. Temporary electric fences, or permanent three-strand barbed wire fences, will usually hold cattle. Special construction is needed where irrigation ditches cross fence lines, as stock can escape at these points if they are neglected. At present day prices, good sheep-tight fencing costs up to \$650 per mile, and thus represents a substantial portion of the investment in an irrigated pasture venture.

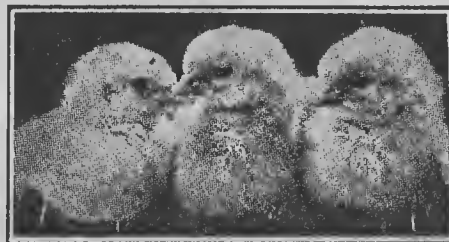
A dependable supply of stock water in each pasture is necessary. Sometimes a live irrigation canal or ditch is available, but if not, a small dug-out that can be filled with the irrigation water, will serve the purpose. Such dugouts can be readily blown out with dynamite in the hands of an experienced operator or excavated with dirt-moving equipment. A mixture of salt and bonemeal should be kept at or near the water supply in each pasture when it is being grazed.

It can readily be seen that livestock production on irrigated pasture involves many problems that are not encountered on a ranch that operates extensively on native range. Notwithstanding the remarkable returns that have been secured, the fact remains that an irrigated pasture can be a dismal failure, as is the case with any other crop, if some of the management factors are missing.

On the basis of results already achieved, it is logical that irrigated pasture should occupy a rapidly increasing role in western Canada's agricultural economy. It applies as an integral feature in the large irrigation projects involving thousands of acres, or on an individual farm or ranch, where a limited local water supply makes it possible to irrigate only a few acres. It applies to the production of breeding herds and flocks as well as the finishing of stock. It will increase the value and usefulness of adjacent native ranges. Ranchers, accustomed to thinking in terms of grazing one cow on 60 acres in the short grass area may soon commence to figure in terms of running two to three cows on one acre in the same piece of country.

Irrigated pasture is not a low total-cost operation, and maximum returns must be realized to warrant the cost. A well-planned program, amply financed and carried out in a closely watched and business-like manner, in both the developmental stage and in the utilization period, has proved to be a good and sound business venture.

(Note: H. J. Hargrave is senior animal husbandman, Lethbridge Experimental Station, Alta.—Ed.)



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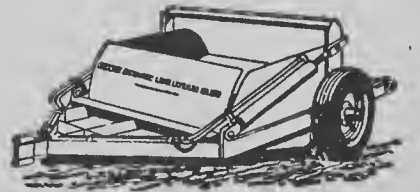
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MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA

The Continent's Biggest Bull Sale

More bulls than ever sold at Calgary this year

IN one of the greatest cattle-producing regions of the world there is still confidence in the beef business. In spite of the past few anxious months when beef prices tumbled from record heights, optimism in the beef business was apparent at the fifty-second annual Calgary Bull Sale, where probably more bulls were sold at one time than ever before in North America.

A new record price was registered when Thomas Usher of Scollard, Alta., paid \$8,000 to M. C. Wood, Tofield, for the second prize Hereford bull, Melwood Super Domino 82F, while the grand champion Hereford of the show, bred by W. J. Edgar of Innisfail, brought \$6,050 from C. O. Dench, of Calgary.

Alberta breeders are firm in their belief that Alberta will become the center of beef cattle breeding for herds the world over and with the finest cattle country in Canada all around them, it is quite possible that their dreams may come true. Located in the heart of Canada's commercial beef-producing area, where cattle range over great tracts of land, summer and winter alike, the herds are so big that commercial cattle men, better able to pay high prices than men with small herds of only 15 to 20 females, often pay big prices for animals that suit their fancy. It is not only showing success that puts a stamp of approval and a resulting higher price on bulls. Big, thrifty-looking, well-fleshed bulls with plenty of bone to carry them over the range, are examined by ranchers with big herds and, if they pass inspection, they may bid prices rivalling those paid by purebred breeders. Breeders have at their doorstep the rich market represented by such buyers, and woe betide the man who is carried away with fads and fancies in his breeding herd and forgets the essential purpose of every beef animal—to change feed into beef as cheaply as possible.

The Hereford sale was the predominant feature of the event in both prices and numbers. The Hereford "fever" was so great that it kept the auctioneers busy and buyers enthusiastic for four days until the last of 818 bulls finally established an average of \$647 for the breed. The Aberdeen-Angus and Shorthorn breeders experienced somewhat lower prices: 165 Shorthorns averaging \$475, while 152 of the blacks averaged \$444. Nevertheless, Angus breeders laid plans for future years, to build up greater interest among buyers looking for range or herd bulls. Aberdeen-Angus breeders took steps to be sure their bulls were big enough for the needs of commercial beef men. As one breeder pointed out: "In this country the cattle we seem able to afford to raise are the big ones, and we want big cattle."

Urged on by the "Women's Auxiliary of the Alberta Aberdeen-Angus Association," the active organization of the wives of many Alberta cattle breeders, the black cattle men themselves resolved to have many of their cattle weighed another year before they go into the show-ring. "We want to fight this idea that Angus cattle are small cattle," pointed out another breeder, "and we are out to prove it."

THIS year's sale saw a total of 1,135 bulls of all three breeds go through the auction ring and bring an average of \$595, the fourth highest average in history. Before the sale, many of the bulls were judged in the show-ring; and here the most coveted award among Hereford breeders went to W. J. Edgar, Innisfail, who showed the grand champion. He won the Austin Trophy presented by Leonard P. Lord of the Austin Motor Company, who has a herd in Herefordshire, England. By virtue of this win, Mr. Edgar and his wife were awarded an all-expenses-paid trip to England as the guests of Mr. Lord. He will be able to renew acquaintances with Hereford breeders who honored him two years ago by asking him to judge the British Royal Show.

Reserve grand champion among Herefords went to E. Thorp, Ensign, Alberta. In Aberdeen-Angus classes, a bull showed by Old Hermitage Farm, Edmonton, was judged grand champion and sold for \$1,550 to R. Green, Mazeppa, Alta. The reserve grand champion, Lucy's Bardolier of Dalrene 8th, exhibited by Flint and Flint, New Norway, sold to a Montana breeder for \$1,900, the top price of the Angus sale.

Most successful Shorthorn breeder was T. G. Hamilton, Innisfail, who showed the grand champion, Rannoch Climax, and saw him go through the auction ring at \$2,500 to George Stryker, Calgary. From the Hamilton herd also came the reserve junior champion and high-priced Shorthorn, Rannoch Memory. This bull went to a Kansas breeder at \$3,000. The reserve grand champion, Marquis of Lothian, from the herd of W. L. McCollister, Midnapore, sold to Skocdopole Bros., Olds and Botha, for \$2,400.

Fertilizer Trade

FOR the year ending June 30, 1952, Canadian fertilizer manufacturers sold 1,428,775 tons of fertilizers. Of this amount, 660,000 tons were exported. Imports, however, amounted to 720,880 tons, the imports consisting principally of natural phosphate rock, superphosphate and muriated potash, most of which went into the making of mixed fertilizers.

Seven hundred and sixty-eight thousand five hundred and forty-five tons of fertilizer materials and mixed fertilizers were sold in Canada. Of this amount, Ontario purchased practically half, or 378,949 tons. Slightly more than one-third as much went to Quebec, which, nevertheless, used substantially more than all four western Canadian provinces combined. Leading among these was Alberta with purchases of 31,848 tons, followed by British Columbia, 29,827 tons; Saskatchewan, 27,564 tons, and Manitoba, 27,084 tons. Manitoba and Saskatchewan each used 11 or 12 per cent less fertilizer than for the previous year.

Practically all of the fertilizer used in the prairie provinces was ammonium phosphate, the well known 11-48-0, with very much smaller quantities of 16-20-0 ammonium phosphate, and insignificant quantities of a half dozen other types. Both British Columbia and Ontario use a wide range of fertilizers, but most in Ontario are classified as mixed.

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ON a crisp October morning last year, W. H. T. Meade, Alberta's provincial livestock commissioner, left for the Peace River country to obtain "fairly accurate estimates" of the numbers of wild horses, which, farmers complain, have played havoc with their fences, crops and domestic stock. Some 1,500 of these outlaws, in four main bands, are roaming the northland at will, feeding on farm fields from dusk to dawn, then taking to willow bottoms and the dim-lit aisles of jackpine forests, when daylight streaks the east, or cold northerners foretell blizzards ahead. The largest band, estimated to number from 500 to 750 man-wary outlaws, roams the Frog Lake region, near the Alberta-Saskatchewan border north of Lloydminster. Another band, some 250 strong, wanders about the rugged Clear Hills country, west of Dixonville and north of Grimshaw. A third forages in the Fort Vermilion area of the far north, while the fourth main band roams the woody Lac la Biche country, about 132 miles north of Edmonton.

Government officials were dubious when the first reports of wild-horse damage reached Edmonton more than a year ago. "We felt they were strays—not genuine wild horses," one official explained to me. "Bands of that size belong to the colorful past—they simply seem incredible nowadays." And while a number of the outlaws are conceded to be branded strays—many of them lured away by their wild kin—it seems the bulk of the herds are genuinely "wild"—sired, born and raised on the ranges, sun-traps and timber sweeps of the foothills province. Most of the foraging

Alberta's Wandering Wild-Horse Bands

Four main bands of wild horses in northern Alberta do incalculable damage to crops and are a serious disease risk

by JOHN PATRICK GILLESE

bands, as is common among wild horses, are led by wise, old, brood mares. But tales are told of a night-black stallion pounding across the Frog Lake flats, mane flying in the summer wind, broom tail brushing the snowdrifts in winter.

IT is in the summer and fall that the marauding bands do the most damage. While, at any time, one wild horse will eat as much pasture grass as two cows or 14 sheep, there is actually enough unsettled country in the north—shoulder-high meadows of succulent slough grass, great tangled "burns" of wild peavine and vetches—to support many times their numbers comfortably. However—perhaps be-

cause of dim memories of life with man—the wandering bands constantly smash man's fences, and the damage to grain crops is incredible. Wild horses are never peaceful grazers.

A field of wheat can be utterly ruined overnight. Likewise, in the first frosty nights of fall, when the wheat is harvested and only stands of alfalfa and clover remain, they will invade a meadow . . . an old lobo will howl to his assembling wolf-pack, and the panic-stricken horses will gallop to the farm end of the field, knocking the precious pounds of overripe seed to the ground. In the north, farmers have to wait for these first frosts to stop the clover growth and make combining simpler. The losses become monumental, when you consider that a good field of alfalfa will yield about 400 pounds of seed per acre, worth, when the farmer sells it, about 25 cents per pound. As few as ten wild horses, rampaging about a ten-acre field for a single night, can leave the crop not worth harvesting, which would mean a loss to the unfortunate farmer of upwards of \$1,000.

In winter, when stubble fields are cleaned and deep drifts cover the wild-grass meadows, the outlaws are forced to break down corrals to get to feed stacks. Here again, even when they are fed, they are not content. Green-feed bundles are scattered far and wide, only the succulent tops munched off. Hay is tossed around in abandon, till even the horses are knee-

deep in it. In addition, farmers find the results of the nightly "fights" over the line fences—young mares gone, geldings with bloody necks, broken legs and great fetlock gashes from the barbed wire. The screams of horses fighting are, incidentally, a most frightening sound in the night.

WHILE a few thousand wild horses still roam the hinterland of B.C., Alberta officials are puzzled as to how such large-size bands managed to gain a foothold in Alberta. They feel that the passing of the farm horse as an "essential," on Alberta farms, is probably the answer. Ten years ago, there were 4,200,000 of these animals on Canadian farms. By the spring of 1950, the total had dropped to 1,796,000, and of these, according to Dr. F. J. Leslie, Canada Department of Agriculture, the average age was 13½ years ("old" for a work horse), and the breeding of new stock had dropped to 4.19 per cent, the record low.

On the whole, the lot of these wild bands is not a happy one. They seem well able to ward off predators, but if disease strikes, such as equine sleeping sickness, their ranks are decimated. This is an additional reason for farmers' hostility toward them: stockmen fear constantly that the outlaw bands will transmit such plagues to cattle. They must eat snow in winter, to slake their thirst, or hope to find a farmer's watering hole at the river. They wait fearfully in the pines, till it seems safe to descend; then, with their "broken" hooves they paw through the thin ice, drink, stand shivering for a few minutes, and file back to the uplands. When snows finish natural foraging, they are compelled to break into haystacks on remote meadows,



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risking deep cuts from the barbed wire and, often enough, a crippling rifle shot from some irate rancher. Their trails are a dead give-away to their winter whereabouts. After a cold night, they will emerge on the face of a sheltered suntrap, to drink in what little warmth there is. Rugged terrain and dense bush country has protected them from serious pursuit thus far.

WHEN extermination of wild horses reached a peak in B.C., members of the Forest Service received \$75 a month wages, plus \$1 a set for ears. Sometimes they were able to club the outlaws to death as they floundered in the deep drifts. One of the most colorful of west coast "hunters" was Richard Church. Sometimes he was "out" for weeks at a stretch; he toted his scanty grub ration on his back, plus a canvas bag for sleeping in, in 20-below zero weather. In his best month, he got 152 sets of ears, and it is likely he destroyed a good many other animals. The bounty system lapsed in B.C. in 1940, after some 6,000 to 7,000 head of animals were

destroyed in the Chilcotin, Cariboo and southern interior alone, and after the B.C. legislature heard the true story of one Indian who camped on crown lands for the night, only to find in the morning that his team of wagon horses was dead—"scalped" and still hobbled.

Alberta proposes to clean out its foraging bands in a less spectacular manner. Meade's main job was to make a reasonably accurate survey of the entire wild-horse population of the north; and with this knowledge to calculate the cost of capturing the outlaws. Stout corrals must be built. Riders willing and able to round up the bands, must be found and hired.

Of the horses captured, those with brands may be claimed by their owners—after they pay the impounding fees. The others will be sold, some perhaps to the rodeos, where mean outlaws are always in demand. The moneys received will pay the riders and for the over-all cost of the round-up. Any surplus revenue will go to the crown.

Crown and Consecration

The significance of the crowning of British monarchs goes deep into the history of both religious and secular thought and action among Anglo-Saxon peoples

by CAPT. T. KERR RITCHIE

THE Christian foundations on which the life of the British Empire and the constitution of the realm rest are never more impressively revealed than at the ending of the reign of one British Sovereign and the accession of his successor. In the beautiful resounding phrases of such a document as the Royal Proclamation announcing the advent of Queen Elizabeth, read from the balcony of the centuries-old Palace of St. James in London and throughout the Empire on February 6, 1952, the very first sentence is an allusion to the mercy of God, and in the last a prayerful confession that it is "God by whom kings and queens do reign."

All that represents something more than the inclination by some people, noted by Dr. Herbert Butterfield in his recent lectures in Durham University on Christianity in European history, "simply to equate Christianity with the British way of life." The simple phrase "God Save The Queen" is not an equation, any more than it is a negation. It goes far deeper than that, so that everybody, even the least reflective, are aware that there is nothing more splendid in the heritage to which Queen Elizabeth II succeeds than the tradition of Christian stewardship which her beloved father so modestly and yet so valiantly upheld. Human equality is contrary to any conception of Christian Monarchy, since the first British King Aidan was consecrated in Iona's Isle by St. Columba in the year 574 A.D.

In a letter written by Henry VIII's young daughter, before she came to the Throne as the first Queen Elizabeth, there occurs the phrase "the king's word is more than another man's oath." The present Queen's declaration of self-dedication disclosed the same sense of stewardship for the things of God, and ended with a prayer: "God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share it with me." Can we doubt that her prayer will be answered?

In an age of material change and

unrest such as ours it is significant that at this historic moment the Empire would be outraged if its leaders did not follow in the ancient ways of faith, acknowledging the Sovereignty of Almighty God, beseeching His mercy and blessing, and, before long, preparing for the setting apart of its young monarch by the solemn rites of anointing and consecration. We shall speak of the Coronation, but the old name in the English language for the ceremony was the Consecration.

Before the crown is placed on the Queen's head she will have been sacramentally anointed with oil as kings were in the Old Testament times, and as Christian sovereigns have been anointed all down the ages. She will be in very truth the Lord's Anointed, her authority derived from Him.

No one, whether he be archbishop or cardinal, is more solemnly or utterly dedicated to God's service than a King or Queen of the Realm. In the words of Holy Writ it is dedication to One "whose service is perfect freedom." Hence Wordsworth's lines in "The Excursion".

*"Hail to the crown by Freedom
shaped—to gird
An English sovereign's brow:
and to the throne
Whereon he sits! whose deep
foundations lie
In veneration and the people's
love."*

In the divine providence our Queen is God-given, God-inspired and God-blessed. It is for that reason, surely, that, in the late John Buchan's phrase, the Crown is "the mystical, indivisible center of national and Imperial union," without which "no ties of sentiment or blood or tradition would bind for long."

Throughout the British Realm we have a conception of monarchy which would have wilted and perished long since without the Christian Faith to nourish it: and, under its Queens, the Inheritance has been richly blessed.

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- If you are a newcomer to Saskatchewan, you should take the proper steps to obtain protection for yourself and your family before you have completed six months' residence in the Province.

HERE'S HOW THE PLAN AFFECTS NEW RESIDENTS

1. You should pay your hospitalization tax before the first day of the seventh calendar month following your entry into the province.
2. Coverage for hospital bills will then be provided as from the first day of the seventh calendar month after arrival.
3. If you are late paying your tax, benefits will commence one month after date of tax payment.
4. The tax which new residents pay to obtain coverage until December 31 is at the rate of 84c per month for adults and 42c per month for dependents under 18, with a family maximum of \$2.50 per month.
5. Pay at the nearest SHSP tax collection office of the city, town, village, rural municipality or local improvement district in which you live.

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Colored Eggs Straight from the Hen

*An Ontario amateur has crossed three exotic breeds
to produce hens which lay blue, green and pink eggs*

by ELIZABETH PETERAN

"**N**OW I've seen everything," marvelled a visitor to Toronto's Royal Winter Fair, as he gazed in wonder at an exhibit of colored eggs—yes, colored eggs straight from the hen. O. P. Johnston, a Toronto furniture dealer, and owner of the exhibit, has developed a breed of fowl that produces colored eggs. These unusual blue-black fowl are called Onta-Canas, and are without wattles, comb and tail. The tuft on their heads, Mr. Johnston jokingly calls their "Easter bonnets" to match the Easter eggs.

Oscar Johnston, born on a farm, began showing his chickens at the age of ten. His interest has continued throughout his life. Now he owns eight acres at Westhill, a few miles east of Toronto, where he is able to indulge his hobby to his heart's content.

In 1927 he read in the National Geographic Magazine of a breed of fowl found in South America that laid blue eggs. Determined to acquire some of these strange chickens, he contacted the appropriate South American Minister of Agriculture. He learned that the Auracana lived in Chili, high in the Andes, and were named for a native tribe. They ran wild, something like pheasants, and the cocks were fierce fighters. For these reasons it was difficult to catch them, unless they were shot, and as Mr. Johnston said, "A dead chicken was no use to me."

In 1935 he wrote to a missionary in Chili, concerning the Auracana. He received a reply which read, "Send me \$40 and I will get you a pair." (Money talks, even in the wilds of the Andes.) He sent the money, and three years later, after despatching an additional \$40 for transportation charges, his fowl arrived, just 11 years after he had first read of them in the Geographic.

THE hen laid one dozen blue eggs and then died. From these eggs only one chick hatched.

Meanwhile, Mr. Johnston had obtained a pair of Barnavelders, which lay chocolate brown eggs, and are Holland's chief commercial strain. When the Auracana hen died, he mated the cockerel with the Barnavelder hen, and inside of a week, he said, the brown eggs were heavily tinged with blue. This proved to him that the cockerel influences the color of the eggs, probably as much as 75 per cent.

He purchased a third breed, the Orolaf, a whiskered fowl, that lays pink eggs, and is Russia's foremost commercial strain. From these three breeds he has developed a breed that lays a wide range of colored eggs—

olive green, greyish green, pale green, blue, pink and khaki. He calls this new breed Onta-Canas.

The eggs resemble those of an ordinary hen in shape, size, and flavor; they differ only in pigment. They are not dyed; nor are the hens color-fed. They receive the same treatment as an ordinary flock. The fertility of the eggs is good, and the hens are wonderful layers.

Onta-Canas are practically non-setters. All eggs are hatched in an incubator, or under ordinary hens. When given baby chicks to mother, the hens picked them to death.

At Cornell University they are carrying on experiments with these eggs, to find if the blue might influence the content and produce brain food.

When asked what he did with the eggs produced by his flock of 100 birds, Mr. Johnston answered, "We use them in the house in place of buying eggs, and my friends are always pleased with a gift of these novelties."

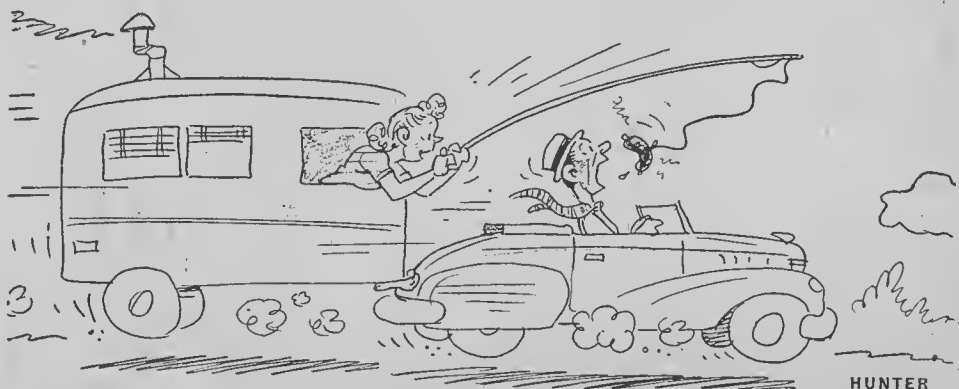
He sells the eggs only for hatching purposes, and has shipped them all over Canada and United States, charging \$2 per egg, or \$50 for a pair of birds. California is his best market. One enterprising gentleman in that state established a flock, and by a system of cold storage, hoards the colored eggs until Easter. In Easter, 1952, he put 200 dozen on the market.

IN 1942 Mr. Johnston set out to produce birds without combs, or wattles. He felt such a bird would be suitable for the Canadian winter climate. He was successful with his experiments.

To prove that it was an advantage to have fowl without combs and wattles, he placed two Leghorns, with their heavy red heads, and several Onta-Canas, in a chilly barn. The temperature dropped to zero, and the next morning he headed for the farm. He found the Leghorns on the roosts, nursing combs and wattles badly swollen from frostbite, while the Onta-Canas were as chipper as usual, apparently unaffected by the visit of Jack Frost.

Mr. Johnston claims to be the originator of colored eggs in Canada. He feels that Canada is now a large country and should produce her own distinctive breed of poultry. Where could you find better than the Onta-Canas? There are no others like them in the world, with no wattles, no combs, and producing colored eggs.

In spite of his success, Mr. Johnston has yet to develop a breed that will lay a golden egg. That'll be the day!



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Golden Slippers

Continued from page 13

fine, except the leaves on the man-high cornstalks decorating the truck garden stalls. They had started to crinkle up a little.

The ladies were all hovering around, fussing and clucking like mother hens. Mrs. Simmons was standing halfway between the 4-H Sewing Club exhibit and the canned goods. She was beaming and wiping perspiration from the folds of her neck. Mom stopped to talk to her, and they looked funny standing there together. Mom was what some people call the horsey type—lean and brown and tweedy. Only today she was wearing the yellow chambray she got at J. C. Penney's. Mrs. Simmons looked just exactly like what she was—a good, old-fashioned farm mother with a head full of recipes and a pantry full of good things to eat. She had started to give Mom one of her pet secrets when the judges got there.

IT was hot in the closed building, and Shelly and I just stayed long enough to see our predictions come true. Then we beat it over to the livestock barns. Oinkey, he was my entry for the prize Poland China shoat, had rooted around in the straw and was all dirty. I got busy with a bucket of

water, and pretty soon his little round snoot was as pink and clean as a rosebud. I looked over to the stall where Shelly had Curley. He had been a perfect little gentleman. There wasn't a curl or ripple out of place on his fat, round body.


And Shelly was just standing there, leaning against the boards and staring out toward the rodeo arena.

Before long the judges came. A lot of people were tailing along behind, wiping perspiration and watching where they stepped. Curley got first prize all right, a bright blue ribbon with a gold seal and letters that said, "Prize Baby Beef." Shelly just smiled a little at the judges, and at Mom and Pop just behind them. Then when Oinkey only got a white ribbon, she came over, patted me on the head just like a real grown-up, and said something about better luck next time.

Spud Latimer's pig got first prize. While the men were hanging a ribbon on a wire stretched across the stall, I made a face at Spud. I saw him look around for a clod or something to throw at me, so I ducked down behind Oinkey.

When the judges got through, the crowd thinned out fast. The parade was next, and everybody wanted to see it. It always started from the fair ground, went through the main gate, down through town, and broke up out

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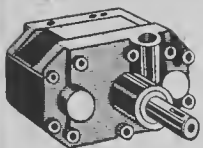
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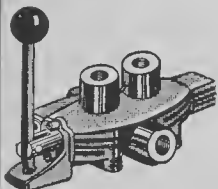
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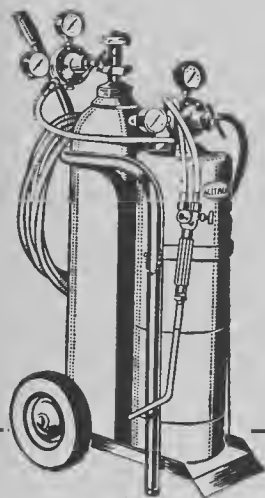
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CG-43

by the high school. We missed the first part, with Thad leading on Sunflower. But we got to see the floats decorated with crepe paper and fancy signs. When the last one had left, Mom said, "I guess we had better go back to the truck and have lunch."

Pop fixed a canvas shade, and while Mom got out the fried chicken and everything, he went over to the cold drink stand for cokes.

From where we were parked, we could see nearly everybody we knew. The Simmonses were away over near the fence, but we could see them, with their married son and his family, all gathered around a card table loaded with food. The Latimers' station wagon jeep was between us and the Prices. I could see Spud working on a sandwich. When he saw me watching him, he crammed it all in his mouth. Then he put his thumbs to his ears and waggled his fingers at me. His mother boxed his ears, and he didn't look at me any more.

After lunch, I wrangled another 50 cents from Mom and went over to the midway. I was standing in front of the place where they guess your weight for a quarter, when something hit me in the back. It felt like a peach seed. I turned around quick, and saw Spud Latimer zip behind the bingo counter. I took out after him and chased him into the only place on the fair grounds where I couldn't follow him.

I went back to the midway, and in no time, I was unloaded again. It was still too early for the rodeo to start, but I went over to the grandstand. Between the grandstand and the stock barns, I saw a lot of people. I squirmed through, and saw Shelly leading Curley around in a circle. They were selling the prize stock, and some packinghouse men were bidding. The auctioneer was cracking corn faster than a radio comedian, and everybody was laughing. Everybody, that was, except Shelly. She was looking pretty gloomy.

I didn't get it. I knew she was fond of Curley. And the thought of him being cut up into T-bone and porterhouse steaks wasn't exactly funny to me, either. But we knew all along what

his fate would be, and she should have been used to the idea by then. But after a while, I knew it wasn't Curley at all. I had been watching her, and I saw that every time she got on the far side of the circle, she kept rubbing around the end of the grandstand. I backed out and went around to see what was so interesting. All I could see was Thad Stevens and Genevieve Simmons standing by the orangeade stand. He had changed to his regular rodeo clothes, and she was wearing the yellow pinafore that won the prize.

I was still trying to figure it out when Curley was sold. The price seemed to please the auctioneer. "You can't tell me," he was saying, "that it don't help to have a pretty girl on the other end of that rope!" Everybody laughed and wiped perspiration some more.

THE rodeo show was pretty good. But we have a good fair and deserve a good rodeo to go with it. At least that's what the Junior Chamber of Commerce says on the advertising posters. I laughed fit to bust my belt when the clown kept falling off the mule. I always do. And when the mule sat down on him, even Shelly laughed a little. I kept watching her, when I had time, and I could see that something was really gnawing on her. The only time she perked up was when a horse called The Killer came thundering out of the chute, pawing and kicking at the sky, with Thad Stevens doing his best to stay in the saddle. He lost his balance about the third jump out, but he managed to straighten up without scratching leather and getting himself disqualified.

In all the excitement, I forgot to watch Shelly. But after the hazer had eased up beside The Killer, and Thad had slid over as easy as pie, she said she was thirsty and left the grandstand. I got thirsty, too, and went looking for her. I found her at the truck, sitting on the fender and looking sort of funny.

"Let's go ride the caterpillar," I said hopefully.



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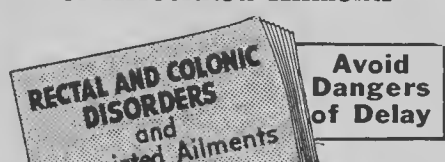


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She looked at me as if she had never seen me before and said, "Go wash. You smell like a pig pen."

That's all she said. Pretty soon she got up, stuffed her hands down deep into her pockets, and stuck out her chin, the way she used to do when a calf had bucked her off and she meant to get back on. Then she started for the main gate and toward town.

It was late before she got back. She had a scarf tied around her head and a big package under her arm. It wasn't a J. C. Penney package either. It was a Toggery package. The Toggery was the ritziest store in town. Mom had got her spring suit there, and I had made a kite with the nice yellow paper it was wrapped in. It looked swell up in the sky, but I traded it to the Waller kids for two grass snakes. Anyhow, that was how I knew it was a Toggery package.

Shelly put the package in the back of the truck, got a panful of water from the cream can we had brought along and left standing in the sun, and climbed up. Using the canvas and a blanket, she made a screen and went behind it. By that time, the rodeo was over, and Mom and Pop and others started coming back. They stood around talking—man talk and woman talk. But I wasn't paying any attention. I was thinking about Shelly and that package. I wanted to peek under the canvas. But she had been acting so funny that I was afraid she would beat my brow. So I sat down on the ground and waited.

Spud Latimer kept peeking around the jeep, trying to get me to chase him. When he saw I wasn't going to, he got brave and came over.

"You look like a cat watching a rat hole," he said.

I kept quiet. He blew a bubble with his gum, kicked the ground a time or two, and said, "Well, you won last year!"

"I'm not mad because your pig won," I told him.

"What's the matter, then?"

"I'm worried about Shelly."

He stood there for a minute looking blank. Then he said, "What's the matter with her?"

I told him I didn't know and that was what worried me. He didn't seem impressed. "Girls always get gooney when they start to high school," he said.

"I'm not going to," I said. "As a matter of fact, I don't think I'll go to high school. I'm going to get myself a travelling circus, with lions and tigers and things."

That impressed him. He gave me some bubble gum and sat down on the ground beside me. I was telling him all about how to tame lions and elephants when the folks mentioned some barbecue.

"Fair day is not complete without some barbecue and a cup of hot coffee," Pop said.

I told Mom I wasn't hungry. She said she wasn't surprised, and started looking around for Shelly. I nodded toward the back of the truck. "Oh," she said, "I guess she's getting ready for the dance."

"Genevieve and Barb are, too," Mrs. Simmons said. "I reckon the young folks'd rather dance than eat any day."

They had been gone about ten minutes when Genevieve, with her brother and his wife, came by and wanted to know if Shelly was ready.

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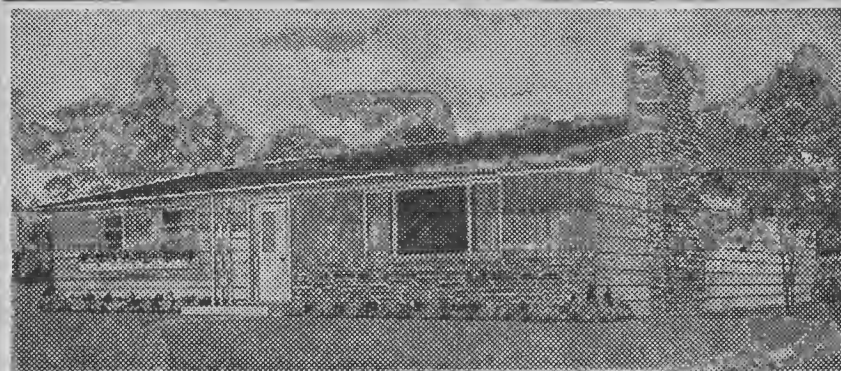
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IN THE BRIGHT
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I shook my head, and they went on over to the open-air pavilion. The orchestra was already there. When the merry-go-round music stopped, we could hear them tuning up.

Finally, the canvas flap lifted up and something seemed to float out from under it. My eyes must have bugged out a foot. It was Shelly, all right, but not the Shelly I knew. She looked like the girl in the fairy story that had the wand waved at her. Her hair was all fluffed out and she seemed to be pink all over. It was pretty dark by then, but I could tell her dress was what Sears and Roebuck call ranch rose. There wasn't much to it up above, but plenty down below.

About that time, I heard Spud sniggering and snorting. I glanced around and saw him pointing to her feet. "Look!" he sputtered. "Gold slippers!" "Creeping caterpillars!" I gasped. "And high heels, to boot!"

Shelly didn't even glance at us. She just gathered up her skirt and sort of oosed to the ground. Then she walked away toward the dance, wobbling a little like a new born colt. But her chin was still out.

I wanted to tag along, but something told me to mind my own business. So Spud and I played Scout and Indian. After a while, the folks came back, and the Latimers went home. While the rest stood around talking some more, I scooted over to the dance.

I saw Genevieve first. She was standing over on the far side leaning against the rail. I don't think she was having a very good time. She kept watching the dancers circling around like puppies chasing their tails. I was leaning against the platform, feeling the jar of the music in my ribs, when I saw Shelly. She was in the center of the floor, sort of draped in Thad Stevens' arms. He was looking down at her with a surprised look on his face, as if he'd never seen her before. But she wasn't looking at him. She wasn't looking at anything. She was just smiling and floating around like thistle down in a light breeze.

ALL of a sudden I felt lonesome. With all those people around, I felt lonesome. I looked around and saw Mom and Pop strolling up. I pointed toward Shelly and yelled, "There she is!"

They stopped dead still and looked. I heard Pop make a funny noise in his throat, and Mom said, "My heavens! She must have gone shopping!"

"She did," I said. "And that's not all she's gone. She's gone crazy!"

Mom and Pop looked at each other without saying anything. Then Pop chuckled, patted me on the shoulder, and said, "Don't worry, Midge. It's a harmless type of insanity, and the victim knows no pain."

I didn't know what he was talking about, but I kept quiet about it. The first thing I knew, they were strolling away, whispering and smiling. I was lonelier than ever, but I just couldn't leave that rail.

The music had stopped, but Shelly and Thad didn't seem to notice. They just stayed there in the middle of the floor, swaying a little and holding onto each other.

Then something happened. I couldn't figure it out at the time, because I had been watching Shelly and Thad. It started with an awful uproar over at the barns. People started to holler and run. I turned to look just

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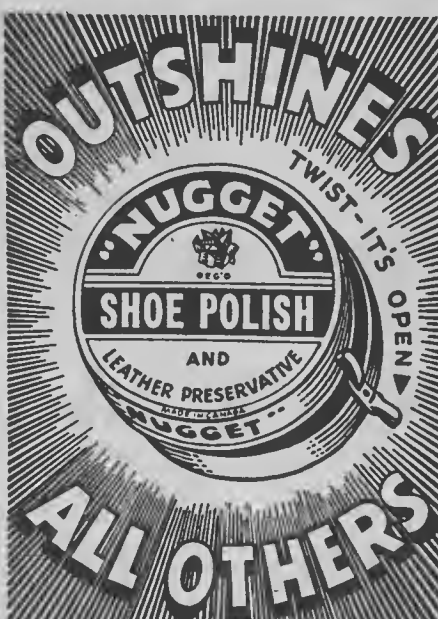
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as something hit the orangeade stand and tore through it like a cyclone. Pieces of the stand were flying in every direction, and people were falling over each other to get out of the way. Then a big cardboard sign fell to the ground and the cyclone turned out to be Curley.

"Creeping caterpillars!" I yelled, and looked at Shelly. Her mouth popped open, and she took one step forward. Then something else happened. I saw her go down, and the next thing I knew she was in Thad's arms and he was holding her like a baby. About half the people stopped yelling about Curley and got excited all over again about Shelly. The crowd had thickened up around them until I couldn't see any more, but I could hear Thad's voice.

"Stand back, everybody," he kept saying. "Give her some air. She just fainted."

"Well, I'll be!" I said to myself, because nobody else was listening.

I just stood there, my hands on my hips, waiting for a piece of the sky to fall down, or something. But nothing else happened. The men caught Curley, and things quieted down a little. Thad had led Shelly off the dance floor and toward the truck.

Tailing them at a respectable distance, I began to put two and two together. I had seen the big packing-house truck drive up just before the dance started. They had come for the stock they had bought. Maybe it was the blast of an orchestra trumpet, or the flash of a headlight, or maybe both, but something had frightened Curley and made him bolt. Whatever it was, Shelly had certainly made the most of it.



"Oh dear, I should have known that free air would be no good!"

SHE and Thad were sitting on the fender when I got there. Mom and Pop came rushing up about that time, all out of breath.

"What on earth happened?" Mom asked.

"Now don't you worry, Mrs. Adams," Thad said soothingly. "She'll be all right. She's just shook up a little."

"But what happened, boy?" Pop insisted.

"Well, we were dancing, see," Thad began, "when all of a sudden everybody began to yell. We turned around, and there he was, tearing around like the dev—"

"—There who was?" Mom wanted to know.

"Curley," Shelly said weakly. "He must have broken loose."

"It was the shock," Thad said. "Shelly fainted."

I was getting pretty disgusted. "Fainted my foot!" I yelled. "I saw her. She stumbled. It was those high hee . . . ouch!"

The toe of one of Shelly's gold slippers had landed right on my shin. I backed off, rubbing my leg, and sat down on the cream can. Mom and Pop had stepped back too. They had their hands to their mouths and were look-

ing at the ground. Mom cleared her throat after a minute and said, "If you're sure she will be all right, Thad, Mr. Adams and I have a little more business to attend to. Then we'd better take Shelly home."

"Oh, yes, ma'am," Thad said. "You go right ahead. She'll be all right now."

"Come on, dear," Mom said, taking Pop's hand. "Let's go see Mr. Vaughn about that special vitamin blend."

"What?" Pop said. "Oh! Oh, yes. I'd almost forgotten."

As they walked away, I could see their shoulders shaking. Shelly and Thad just sat there, looking at each other in the shadows. I was wishing the Latimers hadn't gone home, because I felt like chasing somebody.

"Say," I said, getting an idea, "have you got any old bent up quarters or—"

"—Midge Adams!" Shelly said sharply, then stopped. For Thad was away ahead of her. He was sort of unbending, reaching into the pocket of his tight gabardine pants. When his hand came out he gave me something crisp and rattly.

"Don't get lost," he said, and I think he winked, but I couldn't be sure in the dark.

I beat it to the midway, thinking what an awful dope he was to fall for that fainting stunt. But that dollar bill he gave me lasted quite a while, and while I was riding on the ferris wheel I had time to think about Thad Stevens. Maybe his brain was not so lame after all. In fact, I decided he might make a pretty good banker. At least he knew enough to invest his money where it would do him the most good.

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Prepare

- 1½ cups bleached or sultano raisins, washed and dried
- ½ cup finely-cut candied citron
- ½ cup broken walnuts or pecans

Scald

- 2 cups milk

Remove from heat and cool to lukewarm.

In the meantime, measure into a small bowl

- ½ cup lukewarm water
- 2 teaspoons granulated sugar and stir until sugar is dissolved.

Sprinkle with contents of

- 2 envelopes Fleischmann's Fast Rising Dry Yeast

Let stand 10 minutes, THEN stir well.

Sift together three times

- 4 cups once-sifted bread flour
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 4 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon grated nutmeg

- ¼ teaspoon ground cloves

- ¼ teaspoon ground mace

Cream in a large bowl

- ½ cup butter or margarine

- ⅔ cup lightly-packed brown sugar

Gradually beat in

- 1 well-beaten egg

Stir in lukewarm milk, dissolved yeast and sifted dry ingredients; beat until smooth and elastic. Mix in prepared fruits and nuts.

Work in

- 3½ cups (about) once-sifted bread flour

Turn out on lightly-floured board and knead dough lightly until smooth and elastic. Place in a greased bowl and grease top of dough. Cover and set dough in a warm place, free from draught, and let rise until doubled in bulk. Turn out dough on lightly-floured board and knead lightly until smooth. Divide into 3 equal portions and finish as follows:

1. Chop Suey Loaf

Knead ¼ cup well-drained cut-up maraschino cherries into one portion of the dough. Shape into a loaf and fit into a greased bread pan about 4½ by 8½ inches. Grease top. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in a moderate oven, 350°, about 40 minutes. Brush top of hot loaf with soft butter or margarine.

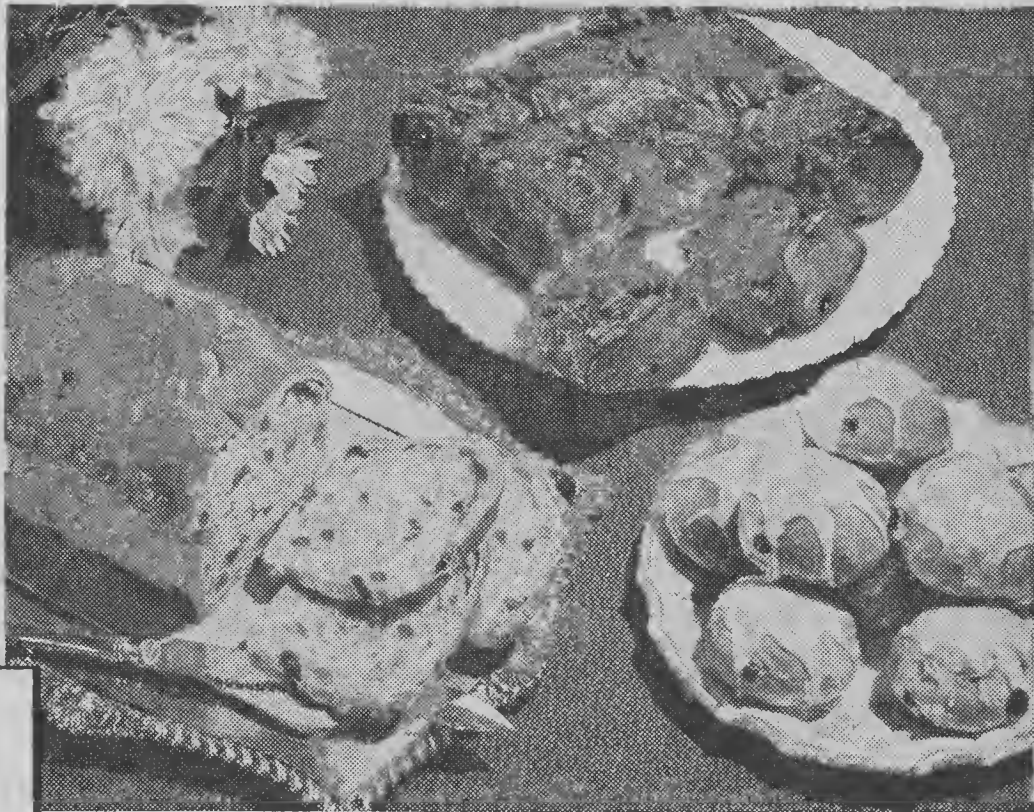
2. Butterscotch Fruit Buns

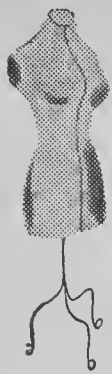
Cream together ½ cup butter or margarine, ½ teaspoon grated orange rind, ¼ cup corn syrup and 1 cup lightly-packed brown sugar. Spread about a quarter of this mixture in a greased 9-inch square cake pan; sprinkle with ½ cup pecan halves. Roll out one portion of dough on lightly-floured board into a 9-inch square. Spread

almost to the edges with remaining brown sugar mixture; roll up loosely, jelly-roll fashion, and cut into 9 slices. Place each piece, a cut side up, in prepared pan. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in a moderate oven, 350°, about 30 minutes. Stand pan of buns on a cake cooler for 5 minutes before turning out.

3. Frosted Fruit Buns

Cut one portion of dough into 18 equal-sized pieces. Shape each piece into a smooth round ball. Place, well apart, on a greased cookie sheet. Grease tops. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in a moderate oven, 350°, about 15 minutes. Immediately after baking, spread buns with a frosting made by combining 1 cup once-sifted icing sugar, 4 teaspoons milk and a few drops almond extract.





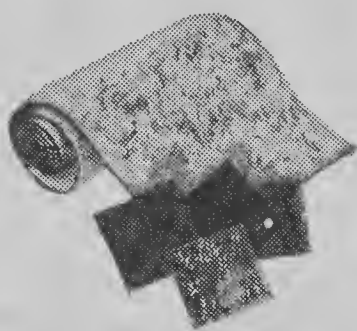
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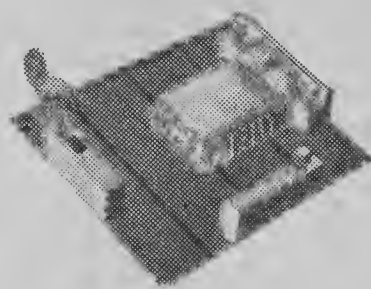
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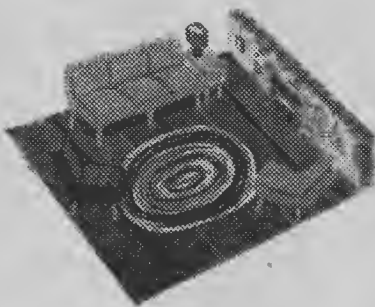
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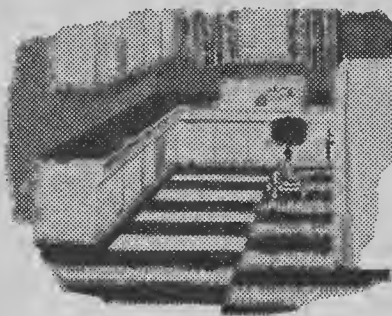
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The Countrywoman

Spring and Inspiration

SPRING is in the air these balmy April days. In many and various ways, our senses are made aware of it: through the sun's brighter and warmer rays; by fragrances borne on a brisk breeze; by the sound of children's laughter from the playground or the cheerful chirpings of the latest newcomer among the birds.

We find ourselves in a mood to celebrate, as life renews itself again. There are stirrings in the mind, body and spirit of the individual man or woman. These may prompt one to write a poem or a story, another to paint a picture, while another may set about planting a field, starting a garden, giving thought to the cultivation of a particular favorite flower or fashioning a new tool, starting a new building, or go into a flurry of spring house cleaning.

It is no accident, that at this season of the year, festivals of music, drama, art and hobbycraft exhibits flourish in many local centers. They express in some measure our rejoicing that the restraints and confinements of the long winter are over. Truly, they may be regarded as a spring harvest of the fruits of mind and spirit. They afford evidence of the ideas, planning, study and work done during the shut-in period.

Sometimes, perhaps we may be tempted to think that "things are too much in the saddle;" that our efforts go chiefly into the making of a living; that our time is too fully occupied with jogging along well-worn, routine paths of tasks and duties, with little left to heed and entertain moments of inspiration. We all are conscious of inspiration, when it comes. It may gleam for a moment then flicker and die or grow into a pure bright flame, that will lighten all our remaining days.

"The Creative Urge" was the topic of the February Letter, published as one in that excellent series by the Royal Bank of Canada. A few of its pointed paragraphs are selected and quoted here, as they give an excellent explanation of the factors that go toward the quickening of spirit.

"Business has progressed and the material needs of people have been met because men and women were obsessed by a creative urge. . . .

"It is not necessary to think of creativeness on a high intellectual plane. The man engaged in some plastic art finds the physical handling of materials a sheer joy—the shaping of wood or pottery or plastic or metal into graceful or useful form, the cutting and sewing and embroidering of fabrics into clothing or slip covers or drapes; no matter how lowly his position in the social world, the man who realizes that he is making things is rich in experience. . . .

"Initiative—getting things started—is an important part of creativeness. Doing, even if what is done turns out to be unsuccessful, is the way of the creative man, rather than spending the time wondering what to do. A man who sees a dozen possibilities in a landscape, in a business situation, in a natural resource, or in a political or social situation, but who has not the initiative to act on any one of them, is not a creator.

"The people who are frequently bored, and find life wearisome, are people who have not realized the joy of devising and making things. They are the people for whom commercial methods of killing time have become big business. . . .

"Creativeness is a personal but not a private thing. It requires communication to other people.

"The creative urge comes to a man from all over the place, from the sky, from the earth, from a scrap of paper, from a snatch of conversation. Then he strives to unload himself of the vision he has seen. The greatest works of art and the most magnificent achievements of men in practical affairs have risen from experiences in everyday life of everyday people.

"It is probably disastrous, in whatever sphere of life one moves, not to be a poet, not to be receptive to the radiance of inspiration that gleams at some time on the dulllest existence. . . .

*A few things which add to the interest of living—**increase our creative power**—**and enable us to communicate our ideas to others***

by AMY J. ROE

"The person urged on by the creative impulse soon finds virtue in the discipline of finishing what he starts. . . . To the inspired person, being licked is all a part of the game and the experience is counted toward final victory. Even a genuine accomplishment is not accepted by the creative-minded person as a finality, but as something enclosing a jewel for future finding. It is the search that counts, not the finding.

"But both the poet and man-of-affairs need nourishment. Superiority in creative ability is not accidental; it rests upon a solid basis of preparation. . . . The wise man, whether writer or office manager, factory worker or painter, makes sure



Easter Lilies

*As pale, young Novices,
In virgin purity
You stand arrayed.
Your beauty has
The passion of a prayer
In adoration made.
You are the flower of ideals—
Pure, exquisite, apart;
A silent Nocturne
That echoes
In my heart.*

—CHARLOTTE BOUCHER.



that his imagination receives plenty of material. Its storehouse must be kept filled. Then under the influence of creative excitement that material will be brought out and amalgamated with new thoughts to produce something that is unique. . . .

"There are three aspects of the creative urge; dreaming of something that might be better than what we now have; imagining how it is to be brought about and planning how to do it; and work. The way to make the creative urge effective in life is to combine these three basic things with patience, persistence and endurance.

"This is still the sort of world where a good idea, properly developed, can go places."

A.C.W.W. to Meet in Canada

IT is expected that nearly 1,000 delegates and accredited visitors from rural women's organizations, in some 25 countries, will attend the Seventh Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World, to be held in Toronto, August 12 to 23, 1953. This will mark the second time, since its organization in 1929, that the A.C.W.W. has held its meeting in North America, the first being in 1936 in Washington, D.C.—when plans were made to accommodate 2,000 visitors and delegates and some 7,000 came.

On the last Wednesday in March, Mrs. Hugh Summers, president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, which is the hostess group for the 1953 meeting, explained to members of press and radio, the arrangement plans and committees, which had been completed at a three-day meeting of representatives from the Circle de Fermierre of Quebec, provincial and national Women's Institutes.

Accommodation at the general and business session is limited to official delegates and accredited visitors. Each constituent body is permitted to send five delegates. The program of the sessions is in

charge of the A.C.W.W. executive. Mrs. Raymond Sayre of Ackworth, Iowa, president, will be one of the leading speakers. The exhibits, hospitality, financing, special events and tours, and publicity are in the charge of the hostess group.

One of the big events will be the Canada Day program, to be conducted at the huge Maple Leaf Gardens, on Friday, August 21. On that day it is expected that some 11,000 rural women from all parts of Canada and the United States will pour into Toronto by train, plane, bus and private car to attend the Canada Day ceremonies.

The dramatic conclusion of the visitors' day program will be a musical cavalcade, now well under way in production and in charge of competent producers of pageants. It will set forth something of the colorful and dramatic story of Canada and its people—those who pioneered, explored and developed this country from the earliest day of the Indian down to the present time.

The pageant will be repeated the following day, August 22, when it will be open to the general public.

Materials at Hand

THE person who has an ambition to write should look at materials close at hand, mix in with the activities going on in his community, whether it be a small town or the countryside. He will soon learn to spot ideas, learn something of the motives that prompt people to action and catch glimpses of the coloring of personality. He should know how to get good photographs, that tell a story or bring out a characteristic in the person concerned.

The would-be writer should avail himself of every opportunity to get practice, and learn to prune his material to the essentials. He must learn to get facts straight and to check all possible sources. It is important that he know how to get good photographs, to try for those which have a "story idea" or catch a characteristic pose in the subject concerned. He may be surprised at the amount of leg work and checking required.

"In this place, too, men have found the materials of life."—source unknown—but "perhaps Bunyan," is a favorite quotation given by Richard Merrifield, in the last issue of Author and Journalist, a writer-craft monthly. He urges those who are ambitious to write to keep in practice and to send material to newspapers and magazines serving their region. His argument is:

"To be close to life as it is lived on the natural small human scale, is to have a very real advantage over the city expatriate, for whom the sorrows and joys of his home town are only diminishing echoes. The regional writer, meanwhile, lays up a rich, living store of materials, new turns in language and closeness to the soil, and perhaps comes to express some note of cheer or affirmation or freshness that in time brings him out head and shoulders above his more arid city cousin. Look about you at some of the best work in the magazines or books, or at almost any of the writing that has endured in the past—whether Willa Cather, Sarah Jewett, Hawthorne or Melville—and you will in most cases find that the writer has actually been up to his ears in the life he writes about, and often as not he has gone right on being immersed in it.

"There is something about the coming and going about a countryside that keeps the juices of ideas stirring in the writer's mind. The grass he describes sounds like grass; birds that are not book birds live in his sky; and soon his people begin to breathe and enact their dramas against backgrounds containing *different* details, different because it is only when you are in the midst of such living, that odd little details and happenings are chanced upon—and it is these, in no small part, that sum up into what you may become as a writer."

Western Canada could well do with more writers, living close to the life of the people, who are trained and able to depict well the character and the outlook of those same people, against their particular background.

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A Stork Shower

In choosing a gift for a baby combine sentiment and beauty with common sense and forethought

by DOROTHY B. VINCENT

"BE practical," pleaded a lady-in-waiting for the third time as I sought her advice on another baby gift. Experience had taught her what most of us fail to understand—beauty and sentiment should be coupled with good common sense and forethought to be appreciated and of use.

When choosing or making a gift, visualize the baby as a sturdy creeper instead of a tiny pink bundle just arrived from the hospital. It is a fact that most infants arrive home too large for the layettes lovingly prepared for them. Knit the sweater and bonnet to fit a six-month-old at least. Make sure that baby dresses are size one and have good hems and wide seams. Remember that babies remain at the sucking stage for some time. Fluffy wools are a menace and a nuisance, and though they are attractive to look at they are better avoided in baby clothes, blankets and accessories. For this reason, keep ribbon trimmings at a minimum for the benefit of the harassed mother. Carriage and crib sets, hand-made, are delightful and welcome gifts. But not too many frills and ruffles, please. A mother's ironing is always endless. Let the material, design and stitching contribute to its simplicity and beauty.

A knitted shawl, crib blankets and rubber sheeting, plastic undercover, pillow slips, turkish towels and washcloths are most acceptable. Size 2 is practical for fancy dresses, sweaters and suits, and do get rompers and overalls with crotch openings for quick changing.

Nursery equipment and gadgets are practical and fun to shop for. As single gifts, accessories or gathered in twos and threes into a boxed gift, your thoughtfulness will be appreciated for months to come. Nursing bottles and nipples, a bottle warmer or brush, a sterilizer, tongs, a pair of baby scales or a thermometer, a hot water bottle and, of course, blanket clips and safety pins are all necessities.

"Don't forget the bath aids," my friend reminded me. "Any mother can tell you how much baby soap, powder, cotton and oil is used!"

If you plan a more expensive gift you can be original with a flair. There are many religious or nursery pictures to choose from, and one of those nursery lamps are a boon to the mother and a joy to the child later on. You may prefer a music box which plays a nursery tune, a washable plastic animal, a photographer's gift certificate or a child's clock. If the baby has already arrived you could open a savings account in his or her name, with a suitable deposit.

"The toidy seat or carriage harness may lack glamour," the lady-in-waiting chuckled, "but there won't be many duplicates turn up, if any! Appreciated and used by both mother and baby, they will help to lighten the load on Dad's pocketbook!"



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Bedspreads Set The Mood

A visit with home economists brings to mind that the bedspread makes a room formal or informal, feminine or tailored, sophisticated or casual in mood even as it determines the color scheme for the bedroom

by LILLIAN VIGRASS



For candlewick use a simple running stitch and clip the loops between.

THE bedspreads in the four bedrooms attracted my attention immediately on a visit to the Home Economics practice house at the University of Manitoba. They were candlewick spreads that had been handmade by the students who live there for a period during the third year of their course, while they actually practice homemaking.

These candlewick bedspreads are made in colors to set off the color schemes of the rooms. Most of them have white backgrounds although a few are pastels. They are in tailored floor-length styles and many of them have draperies to match.

They are especially appropriate for college rooms as they do not muss badly even when sat upon by careless visitors. They wash easily—in fact the ones I saw had been done regularly by a commercial laundry for several years. They are fresh and attractive in appearance yet tailored enough to be suitable for any one of the girls who lives in the practice house, whether she likes fluffy things or more casual furnishings.

Just as draperies give atmosphere to a living room or frilly curtains add a cheerful note to a kitchen, bedspreads set the mood in a bedroom. A spread with frills and flounces or a pastel sheer gives a feminine appearance to a young girl's room. Satins and taffetas add sophistication to a young lady's room. A textured cotton, print or combination print and plain gives an informal note to a bedroom and a brilliant-hued corduroy or denim makes a boy's room masculine and rugged. A tailored spread gives atmosphere to a guest room and a colorful spread and drapery ensemble that is not too frilly will suit both father and mother for their room.

THE bedspread may be the beginning of the color scheme for the bedroom. Draperies may match or contrast with the bedspread or they may reflect one of the color tones in a printed spread. Let the walls repeat the same color in a pastel shade and the rug a second color from the

printed bedspread. The lamp shades can be the bright accents of color that point up the entire color scheme.

If you plan to make a new bedspread to fit in with your present room choose a shade that matches your favorite color in the draperies, rug or picture. A combination of two colors taken from a print or one color with a repetition of the print in flounce, frills or banding can be very effective.

A gaily patterned bedspread or one of a brilliant hue will add life to a dull room. It will lead the eye to the center of interest whether it is a lamp, night tables or draperies near the bed or the bed itself. A simply made bedspread that is neutral in color can subdue a too-intense color scheme. The center of interest then will be some other part of the room, such as the fireplace and mantel, a window view or a hobby collection on display. A spread of the same shade and tone as the walls will make the bed seem to shrink in size or disappear into the wall and give a more spacious appearance to a small room.

A bedspread serves to protect the blankets from dust and, in children's rooms especially, from shoes and sticky fingers. It covers the pillows, sheets and blankets and gives a finished appearance to the bed and room.

There are many styles from which to choose—whether you make your own or buy one ready made. The short length, which looks better on children's beds or bunk beds of any type, should be just long enough to cover the mattress at each side, foot and head. The floor length spread is the more popular for the single or double bed of 20 to 21 inches in height. It must reach to the floor at the foot and both sides, and at the head be long enough to cover the mattress. The floor-length one is more expensive and may need cleaning more often.

When measuring for a bedspread be sure to include sufficient lap-over for the pillow. This will take an extra 24 inches added to the length required for the spread. If the spread is to be laundered

allow an extra nine inches for shrinkage and three inches in both width and length for hems. If it is necessary to piece the bedspread for sufficient width be sure that the piecing is the same on each side of the bed. A row of cording is often inserted at the join for a more finished appearance.

The candlewick bedspreads such as were made by the home economists at the practice house can be made in either the long or short length. They are quite tailored in appearance and their beauty depends on their color and texture. They are suitable for single or double beds and can be styled for a baby's crib.

THE bedspread illustrated here is made up of parallel rows of deep blue candlewick on a cream-colored background. The rows of candlewick are about 1½ inches apart and the stitches three-quarters of an inch apart. The clipped threads form tufts about three-quarters of an inch in length. The students have found that this all-over design does not muss as readily as those made of a plain material.

An effective all-over design consisting of rainbow stripes was done by another of the Home Economics students. One of the bedspreads in the practice house had the Home Economics monogram done in candlewick. There was a wide matching border of candlewick tufts edging the full-length spread.

The bedspread on the baby's bed was perhaps the prettiest although the simplest to make. It had a white candlewick bunny with pink ears outlined on a blue background. Tufts of pink and white edged the spread.

Other ideas will come to you as you plan to make your own candlewick spread. A diagonal stripe in varying shades of one color gives a pleasing effect. A candlewick monogram of your own initials would be simple though eye catching. A floral design centered on the spread or several sprays of flowers extending over the top would be equally attractive. Use an embroidered bedspread design and stitch only the

(Please turn to page 80)



Handmade candlewick spread and draperies give a fresh, attractive appearance to a college girl's room.



"You mean to say there's cream in this powdered milk?"

"Why yes, Mary. It's easy to tell it isn't powdered skim milk like so many of the others."

"Oh, my. I thought all powdered milks were the same."

"Not on your life! Why, my youngsters notice right away if I use other powdered milks—say they aren't rich and creamy like Klim."

"Oh, look, here on the label—it says Klim is pasteurized whole milk in powder form. That's what makes the difference."

"As I said, Mary, Borden's Klim has the cream in it. I wouldn't be without it. So easy to store, and it stays fresh for weeks after you've opened the can."

"But is it economical?"

"Heavens yes! Why, one pound

makes over three quarts of nourishing fresh milk for drinking or cooking. And the 2½ and 5 pound tins are even more economical. Klim mixes so easily, too—just add it to water and beat."

"Well, it certainly sounds wonderful. I'm going to try some right away."

Trade Marks Reg'd.



Free Elsie Spoon and recipes

Want a colourful Elsie spoon along with complete directions on how to use Klim—all for free? Just write to Borden's Dept. CG, Box 1571, Toronto, Ont.

when Freddie broke his arm, young Jack complained about having to milk every night! Oh well, I think I'll have a good cup of Red Rose tea. I seem to enjoy my tea now more than ever, since I switched to Red Rose tea. Red Rose certainly is good tea. It has a

Angel Food

Surprise the family with a delicately flavored light-as-a-feather angel cake

TO make a perfect angel food does not take magic. Careful measuring, thorough sifting of the ingredients and following the recipe exactly will guarantee results.

This is one cake in which it is essential to use cake flour. Finely granulated sugar is more easily blended into the batter. Egg whites that are at room temperature give a lighter cake. A tube pan for baking will give more even baking and allowing the cake to cool in the inverted pan will prevent falling.

The pastel tints and the fresh flavors of the recipes given here will add a touch of spring to the table setting. Serve them plain or topped with a fluffy frosting, whipped cream or soft ice cream. An angel food cake will take the spotlight at a birthday celebration, an afternoon tea or as dessert for Sunday dinner.

Angel Food

1 c. sifted cake flour	¾ tsp. salt
1½ c. sugar	1 tsp. vanilla
1¼ c. egg whites	¼ tsp. almond extract
1½ tsp. cream of tartar	½ c. slivered almonds

Sift together flour and ¾ c. sugar four times. Beat egg whites until foamy—have egg whites at room temperature. Sprinkle cream of tartar and salt over egg whites. Continue beating until stiff enough to stand in moist and glossy, soft peaks. Add the remaining ¾ c. sugar in 4 parts, beating 25 strokes after each addition. Add flavoring and beat 10 strokes. Fold in flour-sugar mixture using 15 strokes after each of three additions, 25 strokes after the last addition. Pour into a 10-inch tube pan, ungreased. Tap pan on table top several times to eliminate air bubbles. Sprinkle top with slivered almonds—if desired. Bake at 350° F. for 50 minutes or until done. Remove from oven. Invert pan on rack and let cake cool, then remove from pan.

Zigzag Angel Food

Grate 1 oz. unsweetened chocolate. Prepare batter for an angel food omitting almond flavoring. Pour ¼ of the batter into a 10-inch tube pan. Sprinkle with ½ of grated chocolate. Add another ¼ of batter and sprinkle with ½ of chocolate. Continue in this manner finishing with batter on top. Bake as instructed above.

Chocolate Angel Food

¾ c. sifted cake flour	1 tsp. cream of tartar
¼ c. cocoa	¼ tsp. salt
1½ c. sugar	1 tsp. vanilla
1½ c. egg whites	

Sift together, 4 times, the cocoa, flour and ¾ c. sugar. Beat egg whites until foamy then sprinkle over them the vanilla, cream of tartar and salt. Continue beating until egg whites hold moist and glossy, soft peaks. Add remaining sugar in four parts beating 25 strokes after each addition. Fold in sifted flour mixture in 4 parts using 15 folding strokes after each of three additions and 25 strokes after the last addition. Pour into ungreased 10-inch tube pan. Tap pan on table several times to eliminate air pockets. Bake at 350° F. for 45 minutes. Remove from oven, invert on rack and allow to cool before removing from pan. Serve with mint frosting.

Peppermint Angel Food

1 c. plus 2 T. sifted cake flour	¼ tsp. salt
1½ c. sugar	1 tsp. vanilla
1¼ c. egg whites	½ tsp. peppermint extract
1¼ tsp. cream of tartar	4 drops green coloring

Sift together flour and ½ c. sugar. Beat egg whites until foamy. Sprinkle cream

of tartar and salt over egg whites and continue beating until stand in moist and glossy soft peaks. Add in 4 parts the remaining sugar beating 25 strokes after each addition. Add flavoring and coloring and beat 10 strokes. Fold in flour in 4 additions folding in 15 strokes 3 times and 25 strokes the last time. Pour into 10-inch tube pan and tap on table to remove air pockets. Bake at 350° F. for 35 minutes. Cool on rack in inverted pan. Ice with chocolate whipped cream topping.

Mint Frosting

16 marshmallows (¼ lb.)	½ c. milk
5 drops peppermint extract	4 drops red coloring
	½ c. heavy cream

Melt marshmallows in milk in top of double boiler. Add coloring and extract. Cool. Whip cream and fold in marshmallow mixture. Spread on cake. Sprinkle with crushed peppermint candy.

Chocolate Whipped Cream

2 T. cocoa	⅛ tsp. salt
2 T. sugar	1 c. heavy cream

Mix together cocoa, sugar and salt. Add heavy cream and chill 1 hour. Whip until stiff enough for spreading.

Maple Nut Angel Food

Use recipe for peppermint angel food replacing flavorings with ½ tsp. vanilla and ½ tsp. maple flavoring. Omit coloring. Sprinkle 1 T. finely chopped walnuts into last addition of flour. Bake as in above recipe. Ice with maple frosting.

Maple Frosting

1¼ c. maple syrup	2 egg whites
-------------------	--------------

Boil maple syrup (or a mixture of white sugar and maple syrup) to the firm ball stage (242° F.). Beat egg whites until stiff. Add syrup to egg whites beating constantly until of spreading consistency.

Gold and White Cake

Make an angel food batter, reserving the flavoring. Divide the mixture into two parts. Fold into one part ½ tsp. vanilla. Fold into the other 4 egg yolks which have been beaten until thick and lemon-colored and ½ tsp. lemon extract. Put the mixtures into the tube pan by tablespoons, alternating the white and yellow. Finish as an angel cake. Bake for 60 to 70 minutes.

Chocolate Marble Angel Food

1½ c. egg whites	1½ c. sugar
1½ tsp. cream of tartar	1 tsp. vanilla
	1 c. cake flour
¼ tsp. salt	

Sift the flour then measure. Sift ½ c. sugar with flour. Place egg whites in a large bowl; add salt; beat with egg beater until foamy, sprinkle with cream of tartar. Continue beating until whites will just form peaks when the beater is withdrawn. Beat in remaining cup of sugar (sifted) about 2 tablespoons at a time; add flavoring. Sift about ¼ of flour over egg mixture; fold in lightly; continue until all flour has been incorporated.

Divide into 2 portions. Fold into one portion 2 T. flour and 2 T. sugar sifted together. Fold into other portion 3 T. cocoa and 2 T. sugar sifted together. Place alternating spoonfuls of white and chocolate batter in pan. Bake at 325° F. for 65 minutes. Cool in inverted pan.

Chocolate Frosting

1½ oz. chocolate	1½ c. icing sugar
¼ c. cream	1 egg yolk
1 tsp. melted butter	⅛ tsp. salt
	½ tsp. vanilla

Place chocolate, cream and butter in saucepan. Stir over low heat until chocolate has melted, cool slightly. Stir in unbeaten egg yolk, salt and vanilla. Mix thoroughly. Stir in icing sugar until frosting is just stiff enough to spread.

Cooking with Pressure

Round-the-clock uses for a pressure cooker that save time and conserve flavor

MORNING, noon and night there are uses for a pressure cooker.

Use it in the morning for cereals that require longer cooking. After breakfast sterilize the baby's bottles and on canning days use it to sterilize the jars, lids and rubber rings. It can be used, too, to process a small number of jars of canned foods.

Used uncovered the pressure cooker makes a good deep-fat fryer for doughnuts, fritters and croquettes. It serves as a Dutch oven when not completely sealed. Fruit cakes, steam puddings, or quick bread take less than an hour to steam and dried fruits are done in no time at all when cooked under pressure.

Less tender cuts of meat cook to perfection in the pressure pan. Brown them first for extra flavor and, even for soups and stews, add the vegetables just long enough before serving to cook until tender. Some vegetables change flavor when pressure cooked so experiment before using the cooker for potatoes, carrots and strong-flavored vegetables such as turnips.

Numerous recipes for cooking meats, vegetables, puddings and whole meals are given in the recipe book that accompanies a new pressure cooker. If yours has been lost or destroyed write the manufacturer for another. They will be pleased to send you one.

For sterilizing bottles or jars add a quart of water and cook at 15 pounds pressure for 15 minutes.

To cook regular oatmeal or cracked wheat cereal use three cups of water to a cup of dry cereal and cook for 25 minutes at 15 pounds pressure. Whole wheat takes two cups of water and 45 minutes cooking and cornmeal five cups water to one cup cereal cooked for 15 minutes at 15 pounds pressure.

Flank Steak Pinwheels

1½ lb. flank steak ½ c. water
⅓ lb. salt pork 1 c. tomato sauce

Cut salt pork into a strip about ⅓-inch thick. Put pork in center of flank steak and roll steak over salt pork. Fasten roll with skewers at about 1 inch intervals along seam. Slice roll between pins to make pinwheels 1 inch thick. Brown pinwheels on both sides in pressure cooker. Add water. Exhaust cooker. Cook 15 minutes at 15 pounds pressure. Let indicator return to zero. Heat tomato sauce in cooker. Serve with hot pinwheels.



A flank steak supper is ready in a half hour with a pressure cooker.

Sweet-Sour Meat Balls

1 lb. ground beef 1½ c. water
1 onion, minced ½ c. raisins
1 egg 3 T. honey
1 tsp. salt 1 lemon, sliced
⅓ tsp. pepper 2 T. fat
1 T. cornmeal 2 T. flour

Combine meat, onion, egg, salt, pepper and cornmeal. Make into 1-inch balls. Brown in fat in pressure cooker. Stir in flour being careful not to break meat balls. Add water, stirring. Add remaining ingredients. Cover, seal cooker and cook 10 minutes at 15 pounds pressure.

Brunswick Stew

4 lbs. stewing fowl 1 pt. lima beans
2 c. water 1 pt. corn, whole kernel
1 lb. brisket beef 1 pt. cooked tomatoes
2 tsp. salt 3 large potatoes
1 tsp. paprika
4 slices bacon
1 medium onion

Disjoint fowl and cook with 2 c. water in pressure cooker for 35 minutes at 15 pounds pressure. While chicken cooks, cube brisket, salt and sprinkle with paprika and let stand until ready to use. Remove chicken from liquid, pour off liquid and keep. Cut bacon into ½-inch pieces. Fry in pressure pan until crisp; add chopped onion and brown. Add beef and brown while removing chicken meat from bones. (Save fat and bones for soup.) Cut chicken into desired size pieces; add and brown slightly. Add water in which chicken was cooked, adding enough more to almost cover meat. Cover, seal and cook for 30 minutes at 15 pounds pressure. Reduce pressure under running water; add vegetables and quartered potatoes; seal and cook 10 minutes at 15 pounds pressure.

Split Pea Soup

4 T. chicken or ham fat 1 c. split peas
½ c. chopped onion 2 qts. water
1 c. chopped celery 1 tsp. salt
ery with leaves Paprika
2 T. flour Bits of leftover chicken or ham

Melt fat in pressure pan; fry onion and celery lightly in flour; add water, peas, salt and bones of chicken or ham. Cook 30 minutes at 15 pounds pressure. Reduce pressure; remove bones; add cream or top milk and bits of leftover meat. Cook an additional 5 minutes at 15 pounds.

Stewed Prunes

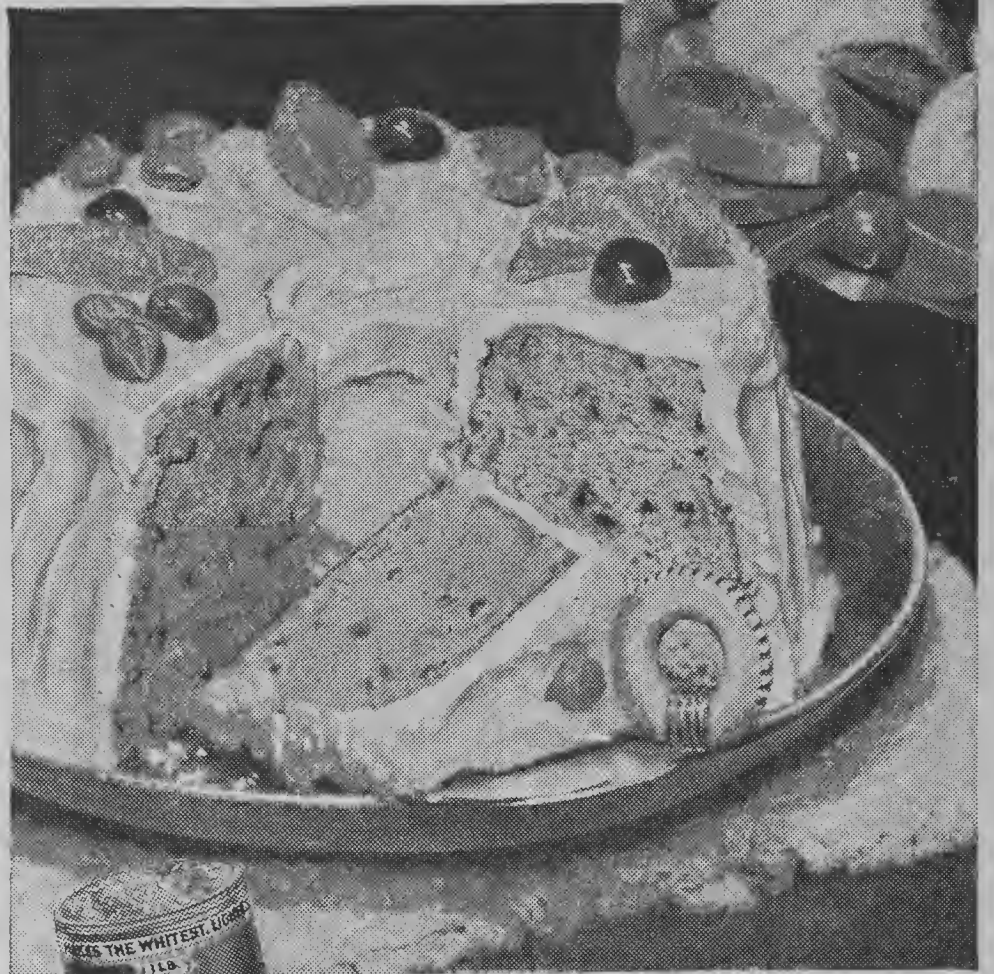
2½ c. prunes ¼ c. sugar
3 c. water

Soak prunes overnight if excessively dry. Cook in pressure cooker for 10 minutes at 15 pounds pressure. Add sugar after cooking.

They'll toot your praises over this yummy

Tutti-Frutti Cake

a new, sumptuous creation by MAGIC



This sumptuous fruity cake is meant to see you over a week-end—but don't count on it! Such a magical blend of flavors—such a dream of an icing—will keep you cutting and cutting! And every slice will add a fresh note of praise for your baking skill . . . you made it yourself!

For baking you're proud to serve, you can depend on time-tried Magic Baking Powder. Magic protects your investment in time and ingredients and ensures success—all for less than 1¢ per average baking. Be sure you have Magic on hand.

TUTTI-FRUTTI RING LOAF CAKE .

2 cups once-sifted pastry flour	¼ cup finely-chopped filberts
or 1 ¾ cups once-sifted all-purpose flour	9 tbsps. butter or margarine
2½ tbsps. Magic Baking Powder	1 cup fine granulated sugar
½ tsp. salt	3 eggs, well beaten
¼ cup well-drained finely-cut mixture of red and green maraschino or candied cherries	1 tsp. grated orange rind
2 tbsps. finely-cut preserved or candied ginger	½ cup sieved well-drained sweetened canned peaches
	2 tbsps. milk
	½ tsp. vanilla
	⅓ tsp. almond extract

Grease an 8-inch tube pan and line bottom with greased paper. Preheat oven to 325° (rather slow). Sift flour, Magic Baking Powder and salt together three times; mix in prepared cherries, ginger and filberts. Cream butter or margarine; gradually blend in sugar. Add well-beaten eggs part at a time, beating well after each addition; mix in orange rind. Combine sieved peaches, milk, vanilla and almond extract. Add flour mixture to creamed mixture about a quarter at a time, alternating with three additions of peach mixture and combining lightly after each addition. Turn into prepared pan. Bake in preheated oven 65 to 70 minutes. Cover cold cake with the following Creamy Peach Icing and decorate top with orange sections, drained halved green maraschino cherries and whole filberts.

CREAMY PEACH ICING: Cream 3 tbsps. butter or margarine. Work in 2 cups sifted icing sugar alternately with about 3 tbsps. sieved well-drained sweetened canned peaches—use just enough peach to make an icing of spreading consistency; beat in ¼ tsp. almond extract.



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Bedspreads

Continued from page 77

outline in candlewick of suitable shades. Keep the design as simple as possible and put several rows of tufts around the entire spread.

Or choose a special design that fits in with the bedroom theme. A youngster would be pleased with a spread that has his name written in candlewick so that it fits over his own pillow. His name in large letters or the name of his cowboy hero written over the center of the bed would be fun for him, too.

A spread can be made in one color or many, in stripes, overlapping circles, diagonal lines, squares or in the form of a spot design. It works up quickly and, as the candlewick is applied by hand, it can be worked on for short periods at a time.

The materials required are: unbleached sheeting the size of the desired bedspread, 10 to 12 skeins of candlewick of the desired colors and a large darning or blanket needle.

Hem the sheeting on all four sides. If piecing is necessary this should be done first and the seams pressed open. If a colored background is preferred, dye the material to the desired shade. Press the hems and put on the design.

The stitch used is a simple running stitch and the loops of thread between stitches are later clipped to form tufts that can be brushed up to a soft pile. Due to the size and twist of the cotton candlewick the tufts will remain in place even after numerous washings.

Hold the threaded needle in the right hand and use the thumb of the left hand to control the tension of the loops of thread. Work away from yourself taking small running stitches about three-quarters of an inch apart. Leave a loop of thread between about 1½ inches long. Practice will make you proficient in keeping the stitches and the loops between even in length.

When you have used up a length of thread pause long enough to clip the loops between the stitches and brush them up slightly to form tufts. When starting a new thread there is no need for a knot. Just leave an end of thread three-quarters of an inch long, then using the left thumb to hold and control the loops work in the same manner as before. Do not try to work right across the spread but halfway across turn the spread around and work from the opposite side. This will help to reduce the bulk of the material that you must hold as you work.

Simple tailored bedspreads may also be made from other materials that have a rough or interesting texture. Choose a firm material of good weight and trim it with a deep or narrow fringe, ball fringe, cording or braid.

A very simple but attractive spread for a boy's bed can be made of corduroy. Join the three widths so there is a seam on each side of the bed then edge it with cording, a fringe, or a narrow dust ruffle of the same color as the spread. The new bright denims make sturdy spreads for children's rooms, too. They wash well, are brightly colored and they are attractive.

For the adult's room a tailored bengaline or heavy faille in a deep shade is suitable. A monogram in the center in a contrasting or light shade of candlewick is most effective. A monogram can also be done on cordu-

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PIE

CRUST PART

32 Paulin's Graham Wafers
¼ tsp. salt
1 tbsp. sugar
½ cup butter

FILLING PART

2½ cups milk
½ cup sugar
3 tbsps. cornstarch
Pinch Salt
1 tsp. butter
2 eggs (separated)
1½ tbsps. vanilla
Pinch Salt (optional)
2 tbsps. sugar (optional)
¼ tsp. vanilla flavoring

For Method
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Paulin's

roy or a heavy cotton. Other materials that are often used include quilted materials—taffetas and satins for a more luxurious room, cottons or chintz if you want to wash them—corded cotton or rayon, shantung or drapery material of medium weight.

The more dressy type of bedspread is generally made in two parts. The top is flat and fits exactly over the bed and pillows. The flounce is the decorative part of the spread. It may be smooth and box-like with or without pleats at each corner and trimmed with braid, fringe or cording. It may

be gathered or pleated and joined to the top with a self cording. Some tops are separate from the flounce. The flounce is attached to the box springs or bed frame and the top section of the spread fits down over the sides of the bed for seven or eight inches to cover the bedding and mattress.

A combination printed and plain bedspread to match the draperies, vanity skirt or slipper chair makes a lovely bedroom ensemble. A gathered or pleated flounce that matches printed draperies will show up to advantage a plain-color top. Or make a flounce of the plain shade to match one of the tones in the printed spread. The draperies may then be printed or plain as you wish.

For a summer spread-and-curtains ensemble or a frilly set for a young girl's room use seersucker in a bright yellow, coral or sea blue. A pair of colored sheets will make a pleasing outfit, too. Choose a pair of heavy weight and trim both the spread and curtains with ruffles or narrow pleats of gingham, plaid or a darker tone or contrasting shade for a note of sophistication.

A quilted taffeta spread is the center of interest in this room.



Savings in Time

Cutting corners in housework could mean more leisure for some things you have wanted to do

by GLORIA LOGAN

ARE you one of those homemakers who are so busy keeping house they never have time to enjoy themselves? The new novel everyone is reading, an afternoon visiting friends or taking in a matinee, are not for you, you wail.

"Some day I'll get time to do this or that thing," you say, but you're just kidding yourself and the sooner you find it out, the better. The only way you're going to get any spare time is to make it and you make it by cutting corners.

Once, not too long ago, I never had any spare time, either. I'd say to myself, when I get this done, I'll have time to write that article the editor of Home magazine asked me to do three months ago. Or as soon as I finish the canning I'll have time to knit Betty's sweater. But when the canning was done, there was always something else pressing for my time and attention. The things I really wanted to do got pushed farther and farther into the background.

Then, one day I sat down and gave myself a good talking to!

Look here. Other women run their home and a business, too. Other women have time for things beside housework. You can too.

But how?

I used a week for experimenting. During that week I made copious notes, both mental and penciled, on the various things I had to do and the time it took to do them. I began to cut corners and figure how a job could be done in less time or perhaps eliminated altogether.

There are dozens of ways you can cut corners around the home. Here are some of mine. Naturally they all won't fit in with your personal requirements and program, but by the time you find that out you'll be cutting corners of your own.

Once a week I mix up enough piecrust to do me for the remainder of the week. I just treble the usual amounts and mix without adding water. Stored in a large jar it will keep for several weeks and when I need a pie in a hurry all I have to do is add water to the mix and it's ready.

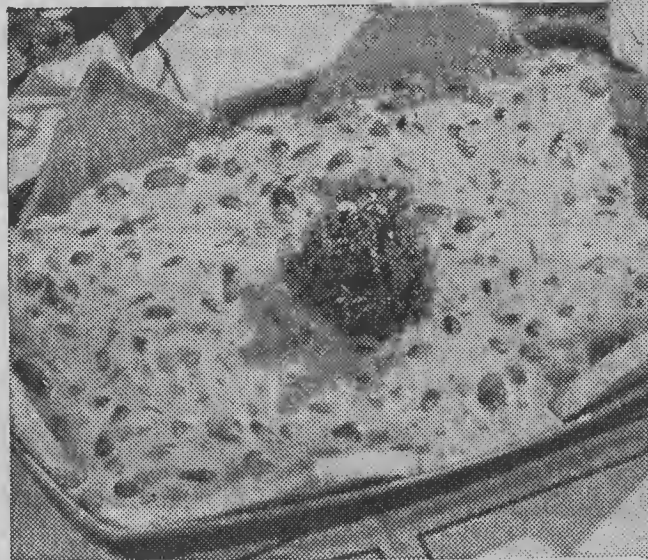
I make ice-box cookies and store them in the 'frig, baking them when I have a fire lit for cooking dinner. I make cakes that call for self-icing, rather than elaborate cooked icing. You probably have a favorite recipe, but, as a rule, self-icing is a mixture of cinnamon, brown sugar and butter spread over the cake before it's put in the oven.

As I bake I wash my baking dishes, thereby saving extra time and work because dishes dry and are harder to wash, if left. Pans are put to soak at once and washed immediately. It's easier on me.

I keep an old catalog on the sink and as the dishes are brought from the dinner table, I tear a page from the catalog and wipe off excess grease, gravy, etc., thus dispensing with the unpleasant chore of washing too-greasy dishes.

I never wipe dishes. Pots, pans and silverware, yes, but not dishes. When

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½-lb. package,
1-lb. or 2-lb. loaf

KIDNEY BEAN RABBIT

2 tbsps. chopped onion	2 tbsps. catsup
1 green pepper, chopped	½ tsp. Worcestershire sauce
2 tbsps. butter or Parkay Margarine	Salt, pepper, cayenne
2 cups cooked kidney beans	½ lb. Velveeta, sliced Toast

Cook the chopped onion and green pepper in the butter or margarine. Add the well-drained beans, catsup, seasonings and Velveeta. (Use a ½-lb. pkg. of Velveeta or cut this portion from the economical 2-lb. loaf.) Place in top of double boiler; cook slowly till Velveeta is melted. Serve hot, on crisp toast.

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Sweet and Simple

DAINTY SPICE CAKES




½ cup shortening; 2 tablespoons granulated sugar; 1 egg; ¾ cup ROGERS' GOLDEN SYRUP; 2 teaspoons cinnamon; 2 teaspoons ginger; 1 teaspoon allspice; 2¼ cups pastry flour; 1 cup sour milk; 1 teaspoon soda; Blanched almonds.

Cream shortening and sugar. Add egg, beat well. Add ROGERS' GOLDEN SYRUP and spices. Sift flour; lastly add sour milk to which soda has been added. Grease small cup-cake tins; place half blanched almond in bottom of each and fill about ¾ full with cake mixture. Bake in moderate 350°F oven 20-25 minutes.

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they are washed I simply pile them in the dish drainer and pour hot water over them and let them dry. During the time that I would ordinarily be wiping dishes I clean off the stove and tidy the kitchen.

I keep a needle and thread near the ironing board and sew on buttons and mend rips as I iron. My ironing board is constructed so I can iron sitting down. It's an energy saver! I save a good bit of time mending as I iron because in most homes the mending has a tendency to pile up. Before you know it, on your first free afternoon you find you have a big stack of socks to darn and buttons to sew on. I save most of the tedious mending until my

favorite radio program comes on the air, then I relax, listen and get in a bit of mending at the same time.

I never iron sheets, pillow slips, towels and the like. When buying clothes, particularly house dresses, I buy the kind of materials that do not need elaborate pressing or ironing. Jerseys, seersucker and nylon are such materials.

When I buy curtains, I bear in mind that I will have to launder them and I steer clear of the ruffled, frilly kind that look so beautiful but take so long to do up.

I keep a paper and pencil by the telephone and write down grocery

needs as I think of them. Then when I am ready to go shopping I don't have to rack my brain to remember what I want at the store while you-know-who honks impatiently in the driveway. It pays off because I always have an accurate list ready and the chance of forgetting some important item of groceries is eliminated.

In keeping with my save-time campaign, I enlisted the aid of the other members of the family. "Put it back," is printed on a sign on the wall of our kitchen; a not too gentle reminder that a certain thing belongs in a certain place, but it keeps me from continually picking up after others and it's good discipline for them, too.

Take a few minutes out each evening, after the youngsters are in bed, to plan what you want to do the next day. Things will run along more smoothly if you have some kind of working schedule.

If you are a fastidious homemaker who worries if the piano isn't dusted every morning and who irons the sheets as carefully as you do your husband's Sunday shirt, this article is not for you. But for the woman who won't suffer a guilt complex because the dishes are drained, rather than wiped dry, and who would like to create leisure hours for her own activities, I say: go ahead, cut all the corners you can and good luck to you!

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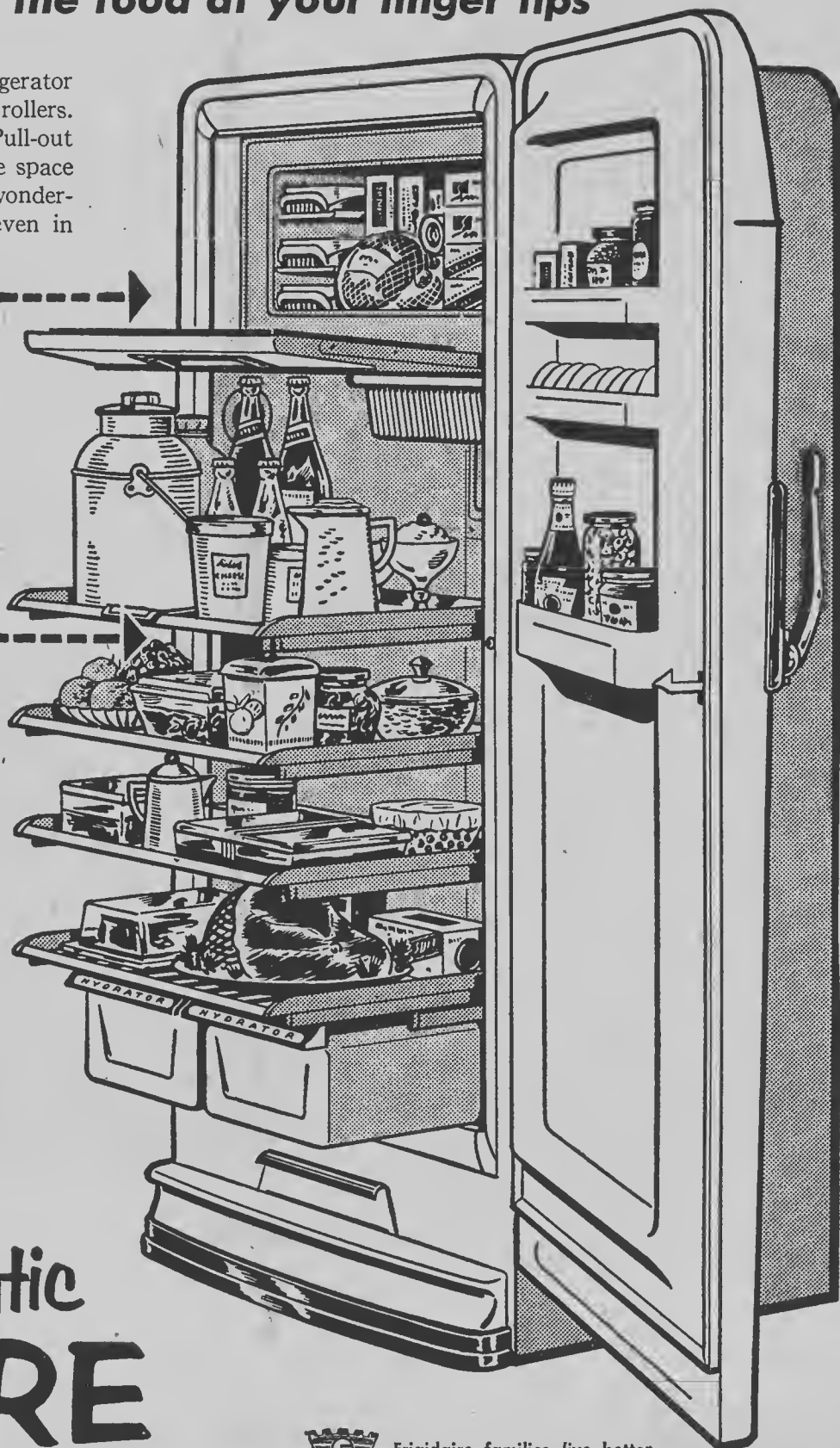
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It takes just seven minutes to hear the whole wonderful story. See your nearest Frigidaire Dealer for full information on the Cyclamatic and other fine new Frigidaire refrigerators, or write Frigidaire Products of Canada Limited, Scarborough (Toronto 13), Ontario.

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For Spring Working

Useful, amusing and attractive items for the needlewoman

by FLORENCE WEBB



Crocheted Gloves

Pattern No. C-286

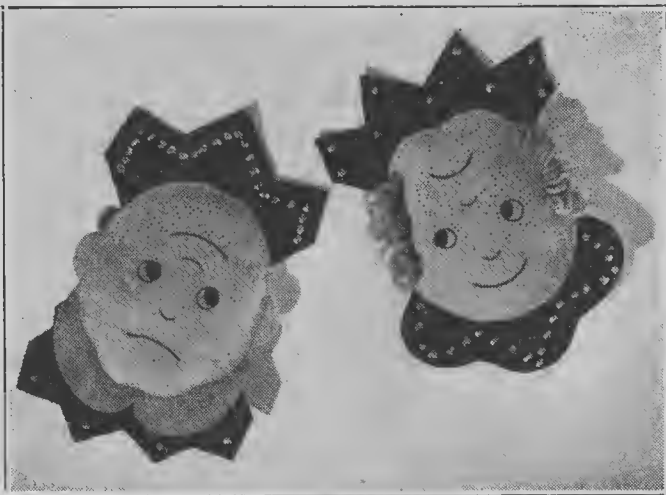
Number 5 perle cotton is used to make these dress gloves to wear with your spring suits and summer frocks. Only one simple stitch is used and the pattern is easy to follow. Pattern includes sizes 6 to 7½. Pattern is No. C-286. Price 25 cents.

Address orders and send payment to The Country Guide Needlework Department, Winnipeg, Man.

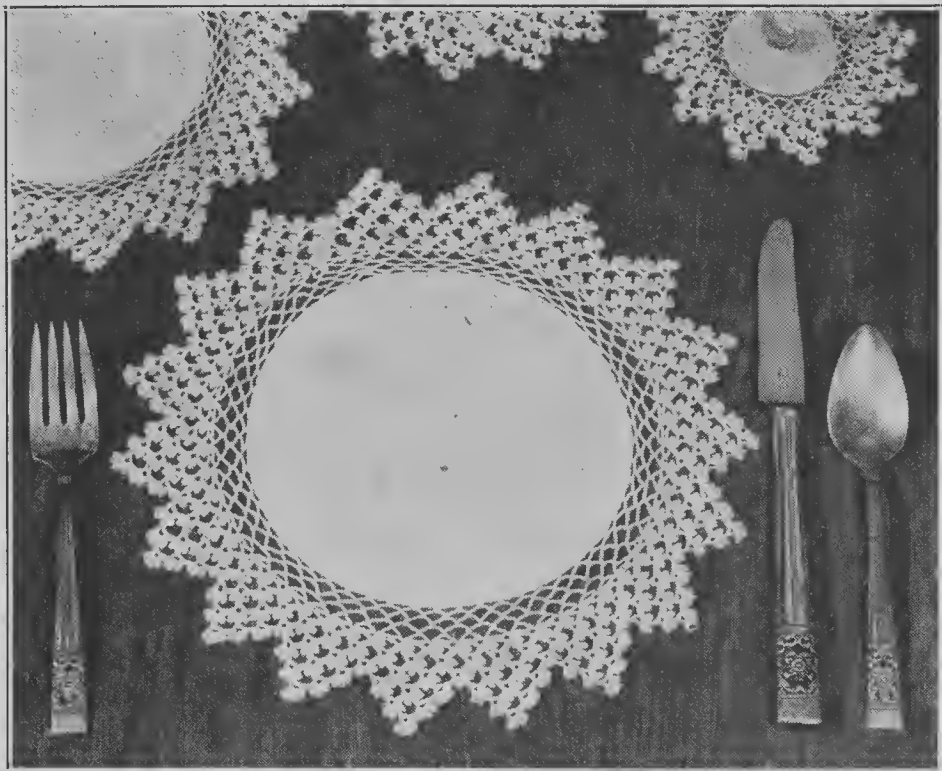
Coronation Bean Bags

Design No. 874

Here is a cute idea for the kiddies this Coronation year—King and Queen Bean Bags! Who ever heard of such an amusing idea! They are stamped on gay, natural-colored felts ready to cut out, assemble and fill with ordinary white beans. Then they will sit up for the kiddies and amuse them no end. The King is very solemn. The Queen is much gayer. Stamped King and Queen with directions are Design No. 874. Price 90 cents.



Irish "Shamrock" Mat Set

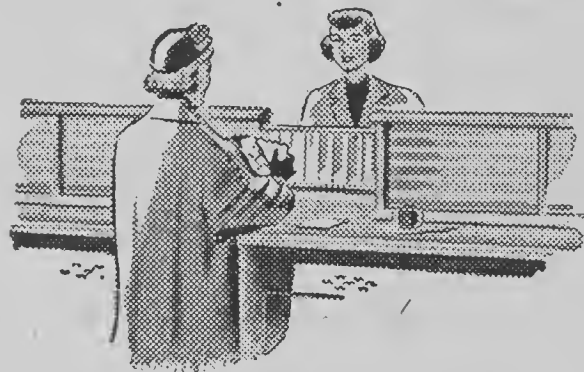


Design No. C-330

We hardly know where to begin to tell you the many uses to which this unusual set can be put. You can make sets of four pieces for place setting—one for the dinner plate, one for the bread and butter plate, a still smaller one for the water goblet and tiny ones for smaller glasses, ash trays or nut dishes. Or, if you prefer, you can make sets of three for dressing tables. Single ones are pretty under vases and lamps. There just isn't any end to the places you will find to use these

doilies. The pattern includes direction for making the mats in four sizes—9½ inches, 8 inches, 6 inches and 4½ inches. Lace is worked with No. 30 crochet cotton. For each set of four doilies (one of each size) ask for Design No. C-330 which includes the lace pattern and white Irish linen with cutting lines for the linen centers stamped. Price for four doilies and pattern is 60 cents. You may order as many sets as you prefer. Each set is One Place Setting. You would also need one for the center of the table.

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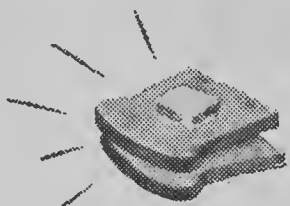


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Shadows of Coming Events

Guarding good looks and a youthful appearance by beauty routine

by LORETTA MILLER

ARE coming events beginning to cast their shadows? Are fine, very fine, lines appearing from time to time at the outer corners of your eyes and at the corners of your mouth? These lines may first appear when one is extremely tired, and may not show themselves again until the next time you feel exhausted.

Small lines, often referred to as crow's feet, may be a natural part of your facial expression. But if these lines show themselves only when you are fatigued, you can actually ward off their permanent stay by using preventive help at once. If these lines have already established themselves, you may not be able to erase them, but you can help prevent them from getting deeper too quickly.

Whether one's skin is dry or oily, the regular use of a complexion brush, followed by a light steaming and the application of a very rich lanolin oil or cream is an effective treatment.

If the skin is quite dry and the use of soap and water proves too harsh, perhaps you had better not use a complexion brush with soap and water. For this type of tender skin, cleanse in the usual way, then ever so lightly steam it with a washcloth that has been wrung out in hot water. Place this over your face, especially around the eyes, and lightly press your fingers over it, molding it to your facial contour. Repeat three or four times. Dry the skin quickly and smooth on a liberal application of the rich lanolin preparation. Using the cushions of your fingers smooth over the skin from the temples under the eyes toward the nose. Then move the fingertips up just below the brows and out to the temples again. Circle each eye in this manner from 25 to 50 times, depending upon your patience and time.

Eye lines may be caused by dry skin, facial expression or a habit of squinting the eyes. If the latter is true in your case, it might be advisable to have your eyes examined as the squinting may be the result of eye strain. Keep in mind that if the lines have been established a long time, the best that can be hoped is that they may get a temporary set-back. If the lines appear only occasionally, there is a possibility that their permanent encroachment may be warded off for some time. In either case the application of lanolin-rich preparation should be used every night and as often as possible during the day.

Lines that extend from the corners of the mouth downward over the chin, and from the sides of the nose to the mouth, may be the result of facial expression. A corrected expression is of first importance in keeping the facial skin smooth and youthful. Try to keep the corners of your lips turned upward in a semi-smile. Go to the mirror right now without once changing your expression. If you are looking rather glum, keep your lips together and smile just a little. Notice how the corners of the mouth turn upward, the jaw pushes out just a little and the slight lines appear even less noticeable. Use a hand-mirror and see how much more youthful the jaw line and

under chin areas appear. Watch these areas when you are tired or ill-tempered. Developing a cheerful facial expression will not only make you look lovelier, but will make those around you happier.

WHETHER the skin is dry, normal or oily, a light scrubbing with a complexion brush, soap and water will do wonders. If the bristles of the brush are too stiff and harsh on the skin, moisten and soften them a little in hot water before lathering. Then using a very light touch, scrub over the lines with a small rotary movement. Go over the lined area several times, being careful not to cause irritation. If your skin is tender, use an extremely light touch at first, gradually increasing both the pressure and the scrubbing period as you get into the second or third week.

If your skin is hardy, scrub until it appears pink and circulation has been stimulated. Then rinse off all soap, steam with three or four facial cloths that have been wrung out in hot water and pat the skin dry. Next, apply the lanolin-rich preparation. Smooth the cushions of the fingers lightly and in an outward direction over the lines, allowing any remaining cream to stay on until morning. Repeat the gentle scrubbing and application of cream or oil every evening before going to bed.

It's ever so much easier to prevent overweight than it is to correct it. Once the figure has been permitted to get out of hand, it may require months of rigorous dieting and exercising to return it to its former youthful lines. However, there are several methods by which one can nip overweight in the bud. The simplest, of course, is to cut down on the amount of food taken at each meal. The diet itself may be fine, but it is simply a question of overeating. Another plan is to do away with one meal, preferably at noon, providing you have your main meal of the day in the evening. If this is done, it might be advisable to eat a little more than usual for breakfast. If noon finds you with a serious appetite, have half a grapefruit and some cottage cheese, a fruit or vegetable salad, minus oil dressing, with a dash of lemon juice, or perhaps a poached egg on a slice of dry toast along with a cup of coffee or tea without sugar or cream.

Shedding the first few pounds is quite simple compared to the major task of actually reducing a number of pounds. There is little chance that the figure will be greatly altered with the first three or four pounds. Unless one has a hearty appetite, smaller meals will not be very difficult, at least until the desired weight is reached. Since there is no question but that overeating adds weight, it is very important to watch your eating habits. If a dinner party is all that is needed to make you eat a heavy meal, by all means go on a strict diet the next day. If a piece of rich pie or cake tempts you, take only half the amount you really want. Then have no pie or cake the next day. Be on your guard and check these two invaders, facial lines and overweight.

Choice for Spring



4203

4145

No. 4203—Soft graceful lines make this slim dress extra wearable. The skirt has a straight line, the sleeves are in one with the bodice and the bolero-like front may be worn buttoned for street wear or open to show the square neckline. Short sleeves included. The white collar and cuffs are detachable. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years; 40 and 42-inch bust. Size 18 requires $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards 39-inch material. Price 50 cents.

No. 4145—A slim skirt with front pleat and a cross-over bodice dart add soft flattery to this spring print. Set-in sleeves may be short, if preferred. There are pockets set into the side seams of the skirt. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years; 40 and 42-inch bust. Size 18 requires $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards 39-inch material. Price 50 cents.

No. 4223—A slightly flared coat to make in full length or as a shortie coat. Line the entire coat in a second color for a new reversible appearance. The pockets are set in and stitched. The cuffs turn back to show the lining. The collar is slightly pointed at the back and the sleeves are set well into the shoulder. Skirt width 77 inches. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years; 40 and 42-inch bust. Size 18 requires for full-length coat and for lining each $3\frac{1}{4}$ yards 54-inch material; shortie coat with self facing $2\frac{5}{8}$ yards 54-inch. Price 35 cents.

Simplicity Patterns



4153

4224

4201

No. 4153—A simple-to-make dress for the junior miss with a skirt that flares to 148 inches. The sleeves may be short and cuffed, if you like, and add a cummerbund to match or contrast. Sizes 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18 years. Size 14 requires $4\frac{3}{4}$ yards 35-inch fabric. Price 35 cents.

No. 4224—A two-piece suit or dress with a detachable dickey. The sleeves may be full length or three-quarter and cuffed. Edge the jacket with silk braid and add a self belt or wear it unbelted with imitation breast pockets. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years. Size 16 requires $3\frac{3}{4}$ yards 39-inch or $2\frac{3}{4}$ yards 54-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 4201—A simply tailored dress that is figure flattering. It may be made sleeveless for summer with a detachable sash. The skirt has a front pleat. The bodice has a stitched cardigan neckline and is gathered over the bust. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years. Size 14 requires 3 yards 39-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 8378—A suit in the match-box style. Jacket is in two lengths. The longer-length jacket shown has two pockets on the right side. The full-length sleeves have shaped cuffs. The shorter jacket comes just below the waist, has one pocket, three-quarter sleeves and velvet-trimmed collar and cuffs. Make the second version in two tones or in a combination of colors. Skirt has two tiny tucks at the waist and a low pleat at each side. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years. Size 16 requires 3 yards 54-inch material. Price 50 cents.

State size and number of each pattern ordered. Write name and address clearly.

Note price to be included with order.

Patterns may be ordered from The Country Guide Patterns, Winnipeg, or direct from your local dealer.



4223

8378

The Nerve Test

Continued from page 8

teeth. His onrush was turned aside as Wee Bandy swung his double-bladed weapon, exactly as he had swung the bucket, and landed a sharp smack with the flat of the boards on the animal's cheek. The bucket had been noisy enough, but the double beat of the light boards sounded as though, not only was his jaw-bone shattered to smithereens, but that every tooth in his head was rattled out of its socket.

Retreating to the corner in amazement, he allowed Wee Bandy to advance half-way into the loose-box, when he decided to repeat his old tactics. Other attendants had always retreated, but this one stood firm and landed a miniature earthquake right between his ears. A second, a third followed, and a fourth crashed along his shoulder as he turned away.

"Mister Waterson," called Wee Bandy, "ask Preserve-us to bring another feed of oats. Close over the half-door till I see can I get him to move around."

Alone in the loose-box, Wee Bandy approached the horse's head. There was no mad onrush this time. Instead, the horse backed away coweringly. In a moment Wee Bandy had him moving any way he wished around the box.

"I have you now, me bucko," said Wee Bandy, quietly, "one or other of us had to be the boss, and I need a

job more than I can tell you. We'll get on rightly now if you conduct yourself, but I can't afford to let you best me." Then, aloud, he called to Weasels: "Did the oats come yet, Mr. Waterson?"

WHEN the oats arrived, Wee Bandy walked calmly to the horse; caught his head-collar with the long wire hook and led him toward the door. Here he exchanged the wire lead for a length of rope, and then held up the bucket of oats to the animal's head. The horse refused to eat. Wee Bandy left down the bucket and stroked the restive head caressingly. He talked coaxingly all the while, but it was only after several refusals that the horse condescended to snatch a hasty mouthful.

He was eating more or less contentedly from the bucket which Wee Bandy held up to him when the Boss arrived on the scene.

"Is that the horse that used to be fed, by his last owner, through a trap-door in the loft?" asked Mr. Gerry Regan, with uplifted brows. "Do you know, Waterson, trap-doors are nasty things. Never liked them since I fell through one, when I was a lad, down on top of a bull. Lucky he was a perfect lamb of a bull," said he, as he strolled up the yard.

Weasels Waterson's face reddened ominously. He felt his prestige had been lowered considerably. "Nice piece of trick showmanship," he told Wee Bandy, in a scornful whisper,

"but I'm not forgetting to order the coffin for this evening. Wait till you see hounds."

THE Boss returned in a few moments, and said: "Wee Bandy, you ride my Grey Friar to the Meet. Preserve-us is riding the Galway Roan. Bunty is riding the Mullingar Mare, and since she's the quietest traveller, he had better take this chestnut alongside. I'm going over with Doctor Brannagan in his car; the Meet is at Crossdrum Cross at eleven o'clock. Bring the horses round behind the wood and I'll meet you there. It will give Wee Bandy a chance to ride a few of the chestnut's buck jumps and no one will see him when he falls off."

Crossdrum Cross was set in the heart of a grand piece of country. A deep woodland occupied one of its quarters. The other three were fenced by moss bedecked stone walls. They were not the frowning eight-foot-high monstrosities that begrudge the casual passerby a view of nature's loveliness. No, they were just low enough to make a nice fence for a horse; they were a little too ambitious for thieving cattle, and they afforded a friendly grandstand for foot followers anxious to see hounds running. All the monarchs of the wood were knee-deep in a sea of vivid green laurels. The laurels were ankle-deep in a welter of briars. The briars had their toes sunken in a deep carpet of fallen leaves. This tawdled riot of nature's colorings made a perfect background for the gay scarlet of

the huntsmen's coats, the glossy sheen of well-groomed horses and the cheerful dapples of the hounds.

On a sward of grass between the road and the woodside wall, hounds were gathered around their huntsman. They were flanked on either side by their Whipper's-in. Comber, the most trustworthy veteran in the pack, sat quietly on his haunches, while two younger hounds licked his chops in friendship. Furious, a surly hound growled ominously when Thunderer, an equally truculent kennel mate approached. That some long-standing feud existed between these two was obvious from the bristling hackles on their backs.

"Thunderer! Have a care!" Came from the Huntsman, accompanied by a light flick of his thong, and the seeker of trouble swaggered away with the arrogant resentment of a frustrated bully. An eight-year-old golden-haired youngster from a nearby farmhouse had her arms around the neck of Gallenule. Gallenule reciprocated her attention by trying to lick her face, and several of the younger hounds helped him with the work. Mischief, Melody, and Harmony frolicked and tumbled on the grass. Dairymaid hopped on to the wall top, but returned at a command from a Whipper-in, and took her place again in the clustered pack.

Wee Bandy, Preserve-us and Bunty worked their way through the throng of horses, mounted the grass margin

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by the side of the road opposite to that on which hounds were clustered, and soon vanished round a bend at the end of the wood.

DOCTOR BRANNAGAN'S car was parked at a field gate. Its owner and Gerry Regan awaited the arrival of the horses. The Doctor's horse was already there. They all went into the field and in the privacy of the sheltering wood, Mr. Regan attached, with its spring clip, a white webbed lead-rein to the bridle of the chestnut. The horse's girths were adjusted, the stirrups altered, and he was led away from his stable companions.

"I'm keeping this lead-rein on, Wee Bandy, so that if you fall, he won't gallop away riderless to the cross-roads, and let the whole world know he's a rascal," said Mr. Regan.

Wee Bandy felt that as a beginning it wasn't very encouraging.

"As you haven't ridden for such a long time," Mr. Regan continued, "you have my full permission to grasp the saddle fore and aft with both hands. You can take a mouthful of his mane; anything you like, I don't care, but don't let him best you!"

Wee Bandy had scarcely alighted nimbly in the saddle when the battle began. Few horses really know how to buck, but the chestnut had acquired the art.

The straightforward, up and down buck of sheer lightheartedness, like the movement of a boat on a choppy sea, may be extremely disconcerting, but it does not necessarily result in the partnership being dissolved instantly. The rascal, however, who arches his back, tucks his tail, pokes his nose between his forelegs as though endeavoring to bite the tip of that tail, is no longer in the class of the lighthearted, devil-may-care amateurs. When his body is in that hoop-backed position and he shoots perpendicularly six feet off the ground, he is indeed worthy of semi-professional status. But when he is clear of the ground, and has acquired the ability to perform that peculiar combination of wriggle and half-turn in mid-air, he is a fully qualified professional.

Wee Bandy's face was snow-white as he survived the third forward up-and-down plunge of the chestnut. All the weather-beaten, sun-tanned hardiness seemed to have ebbed completely from his features. He held his reins short, fighting desperately to prevent the chestnut getting his head down. Mr. Regan still held the lead-rein, using its influence only when the horse was in front of him, never when the horse got behind him; otherwise he would have been pulling against Wee Bandy. Then of course, as so often happens in spite of the best planned precautions, the horse spun round twice, wrapped the lead-rein around himself and compelled its holder to release it. Now, he felt satisfied. The battle was now between himself and his rider, and there were no rules. He hurtled away as if to gallop, stopped jarringly and shot into the air. Wee Bandy swayed perilously at the sudden change of tactics and, in that brief split-second allowed his reins to slacken. Down went the horse's head on the instant. Out flashed Wee Bandy's riding whip. The color rushed back to his plucky face.

"I want a job," he hissed, "and you want to fight, so here goes!" His whalebone whined along the horse's ribs as the animal was in mid-air. The

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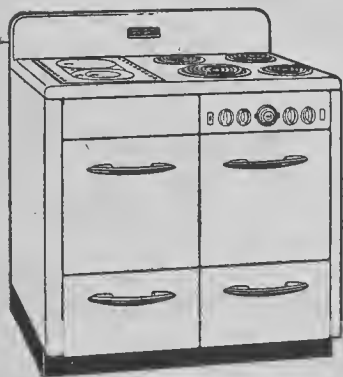


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suddenness of it took the horse's mind off his aerial wriggle. It knocked the venom out of that vicious half-turn. Wee Bandy realized if the horse got full freedom for its performance, he'd probably be pitched off like an empty sack. He'd even swallow his pride and grasp the saddle if he found that coming, for his job depended on the outcome.

But he didn't need to grasp the saddle just yet. Days and nights of bareback riding to and from the Fairs, with seven or eight horses tugging his arms almost out of their sockets, had left him muscles like tempered steel. His bandy legs were lapped to the saddle like a vice. If he could only get the horse's head up, he'd lock the reins across his mane and whip him into a gallop. It was his only hope, for if he allowed him to stand and choose his own positions he was defeated. He tugged desperately at the reins and swore he never met such a headstrong brute in his life. His mouth must be made of iron. Then he discovered the horse was standing on the trailing lead-rope that had been held—oh, it seemed months ago—by his Boss!

It held the horse's head two feet from the ground, and tug how he would he couldn't release himself from the weight of his own foreleg. This was a problem he had not encountered with his previous riders. This present rider was a tenacious devil. Now he had his head held as firmly as if it were tied to a manger. Fear entered his head. The rider was his master... then his foreleg moved and he was free.

In the relief that surged over him the horse threw his head in the air with delight, and Wee Bandy snapped at the golden opportunity. He shortened his reins in a flash, crossed them in the fist of his left hand, rammed the clenched knuckles of that fist hard against the mane of an arched neck, and then put the heart crosswise in the horse with a few strokes of his whip.

Fear had already entered the horse's head. Admittedly, it was only for a flash during the brief space while he trod on his own lead-rope. But fear has a habit of growing once it becomes implanted, and Wee Bandy was determined to hasten its growth.

WEE BANDY was far too busy forcing his horse forward to notice a brown shadow slip away from the wood. His audience were far too occupied, by a mixture of prayers for his safety and admiration for his pluck, to notice the shadow either. As if from nowhere, a Whipper-in appeared round a corner of a hedge and startled the countryside with a rousing Tally-Ho!

From the heart of the wood came the merry twang of the Huntsman's horn. Far away, at the upper end of the covert hound-dapples flashed on the grassland. They ran along the brow of the ditch for a short distance and turned once more into the wood. Except for an occasional whimper, they were running almost silent.

Mr. Regan and Dr. Brannagan forgot Wee Bandy for the moment and hurried back to where Preserve-us and Bunty held the horses. They had scarcely reached them, when hounds came pouring out of a cover in a riot of flashing dapples and went screaming away in full cry. They were flanked by their Huntsman and a Whipper-in, both of whom were rather at a loss to know how some rider on

a chestnut horse had got such a good start with hounds.

For Wee Bandy was swooping toward them like a tornado. He had slacked the chestnut's reins, and was pushing him on like a jockey riding a close finish. The Huntsman and Whipper-in were too occupied with their work to notice the lead-rein that floated behind the racing chestnut. Neither did they see the diminutive rider make several precarious attempts to release the spring-clip that held it to his bridle. He didn't want to gather it up, his hands were full enough already. He wanted to release it completely and Preserve-us or Bunty could collect it where it would fall.

Out of the corner of his eye he saw a cavalcade of horses coming through a gateway at the upper end of the wood. The Boss, Doctor Brannagan, Preserve-us and Bunty must be somewhere directly behind him, for he couldn't see them.

The Huntsman flicked over a bushed-up gap. The Whipper-in followed, and Wee Bandy sent the chestnut at it as if he were riding a steeplechase.



"What do you mean, she won't let you? Assert yourself—are you a man or a mouse?"

When he landed, he again fought desperately to release the troublesome lead-rein, but a wall in front called for immediate attention.

Doctor Brannagan jumped it a few seconds behind him.

At a towering double bank, the Huntsman swung left. The young Whipper-in swung right. Wee Bandy followed the older craftsman. A thick hedge scowled at them from the top of the bank, but the Huntsman chose a spot where daylight showed through. His horse sprang out across the yawning drain, hooked on the bank top, changed his feet, charged courageously through the hedge, cleared the ditch on the other side and disappeared.

Wee Bandy's chestnut was being ridden as he had never been ridden before. He found himself being pushed along at a terrific pace, yet as he approached this big bank, he found himself being pulled together, his muscles seemed rippling with pepped-up energy and his whole movements were being co-ordinated into perfect collection.

Under normal circumstances he would have funkled that yawning drain, to say nothing of the towering bank. But recent events had changed his outlook regarding equine behavior. He was amazed at himself when he actually found he was on top of the bank. His nose was rammed into the hedge before he had time to change his mind. A pair of sturdy boot heels gave him "the office," a voice that compelled obedience said: "Hup!" and

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he shot over the second ditch like a Grand National winner. He landed as lightly as a bird, took one stride onward, then pitched forward on top of his head.

Doctor Brannagan's horse shot out behind him and had to do some nimble footwork to avoid the prostrate horse and the sprawling rider.

The Doctor dismounted and hurried back. Wee Bandy was standing, holding the reins in his hand.

"It's my fault," said the Doctor. "That damned lead-rein was stretched nicely across the bank when my mare landed on top, and she landed plumb on that lead-rein. It's not your fault nor the chestnut's."

"Never mind explanations, Doctor," panted Wee Bandy. "Gimme a leg-up quick."

"Take off that lead-rein before you get killed!" ordered the Doctor.

"Never mind the lead-rein!" gulped Wee Bandy. "Gimme a leg-up before the Boss comes, or I'm ruined."

"What are you raving about?" asked the Doctor, irritably.

"Me job, Doctor, I'll never get the job if he sees the chestnut bested me," Wee Bandy almost sobbed as his diminutive body tried in vain to scramble up on the towering and restive chestnut.

Other riders, following the line of the Whipper-in, were pounding away at the top of the field.

"Don't behave like a terrified school girl."

Preserve-us appeared on the bank top. "Glory be to God, Doctor!" he exclaimed, "how many miles is it down to where you are?" as he forced his animal across the big drop.

The Boss and Bunty followed; the latter grumbling audibly about Wee Bandy's choice of "nice, little, tidy, simple fences for schooling a green horse."

The blood drained once more from Wee Bandy's tanned face as the Boss approached.

"I trampled on his lead-rein, Gerry," said the Doctor, "and I turned him over like a shot rabbit. I think both of them are pretty well done in," he whispered in an aside. "Spasmodic meals, snapped up now and again in doubtful lodgings, don't prepare a man for what he's been through."

"Yes, I realized that, when the color drained from his face at the first few bucks; and I felt positively miserable that I ever agreed to the plan, even though it was his own suggestion."

"If yis are coming at all, sir," said Preserve-us, "yis 'ill need to hurry up or hunt 'ill be in the next county!"

"Right-o!" said the Boss, tolerantly. "Go on ahead, lads." Then to Wee Bandy, he murmured: "Are you going on?"

"Oh! yes, sir," said Wee Bandy, with a face as pale as a ghost. "If you'll please give me a leg-up."

"I think, perhaps, that chestnut has had enough for one day. Upon my soul, you won't know that horse when you've worked him by yourself for the next few weeks!"

"Oh, sir! Do you mean . . .?"

The Boss's reply was lost as Grey Friar rocketed away toward the last of the disappearing huntsmen.

Wee Bandy patted the sweating neck of a thoroughly sobered chestnut horse. As he hooked the reins in the crook of his arm and turned for home, the blood returned to his wistful, weather-beaten face.

IT'S TIME TO THINK OF MANY THINGS . .



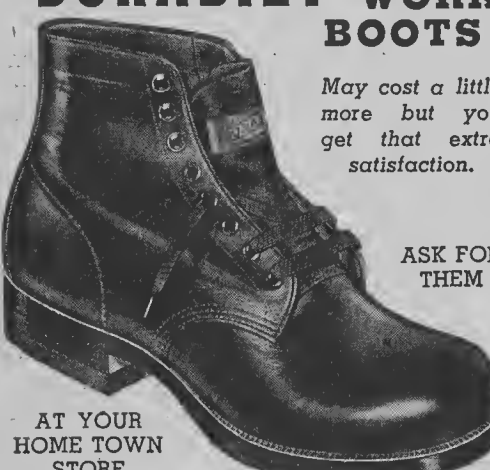
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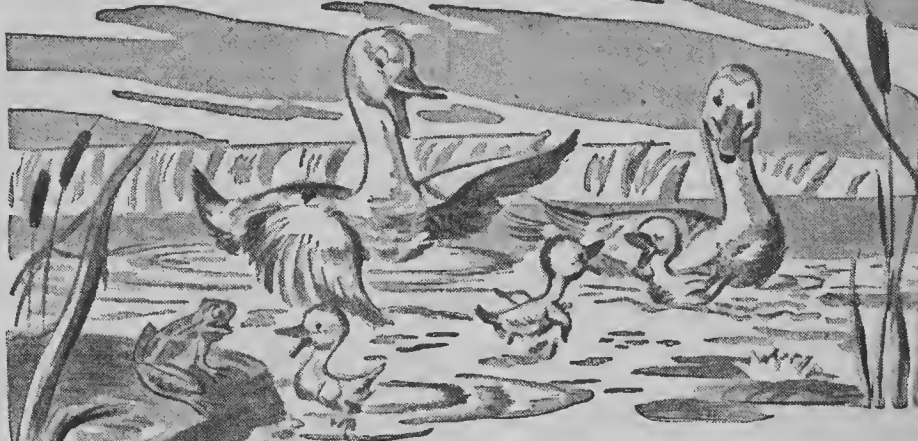
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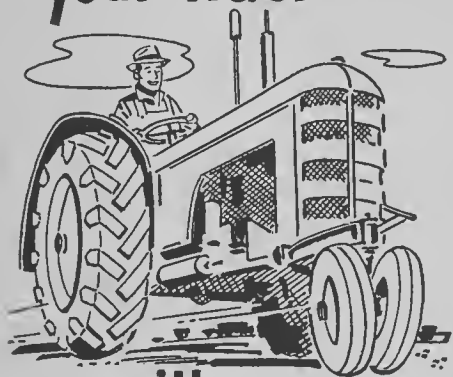
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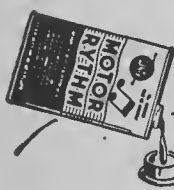
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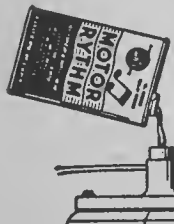
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The Drop in Cattle Prices

Canadian and United States buyers experienced similar price declines in past months

FARMERS who buy feeder steers to fatten and sell are looking at their business with more caution, after events of the past year and a half. They bought cattle at record high prices in the fall of 1951, and in the following winter saw beef prices in the United States and Canada begin a sudden fall that astonished nearly everyone in the cattle business. Starting when the beef supply caught up to the demand in the United States in the last three months of 1951, the price in this country was hit another blow by the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, and was saved from complete collapse only by the support prices put into effect by the Canadian government.

Still, the drop was so severe in the United States that the Canadian supports, intended to be lower than prices across the line, finally remained higher than American prices. When these supports were withdrawn by the Canadian government at the time the embargo was lifted on March 2, Canadian prices were forced still lower before meat could be shipped into the United States.

Let's look at the situation leading up to this price break. From 1946 to 1951, the price of beef rose swiftly and steadily and persons buying steers sometimes made remarkable profits. In 1950, for example, a farmer might buy good 750-pound feeder steers for, say, \$185 at Winnipeg. Selling the same steers the following year, after they had gained 200 pounds and were good enough to reach choice grade, the return for them might be about \$320 each, leaving a gross gain of about \$135. Cattlemen found this situation so profitable, and they had so much confidence in future prices, that they bid prices to a peak in 1951, only to see them slide down again.

FATTENING cattle is a specialized business, confined mainly to the provinces of Alberta and Ontario, which took 84 per cent of all feeders going through Canadian stockyards in 1951. In Alberta, the feeder cattle region is largely confined to the central part of the province and to the Lethbridge area, while in Ontario, feed lots are largely lined up along the western shore of Lake Huron from Georgian Bay in the north to Kent county in the south.

A series of factors caused the price decline in Canada, and it is obvious that most of the price drop would have occurred even if there had been no disease outbreak and resulting embargo. Principal costs of shipping feeder cattle from Winnipeg to St. Paul, include buying charges, freight and customs duties. Charges for every 100 pounds shipped in 1951 were: buying charges, 25 cents; duties, about \$1.87, and freight, about 66 cents. Allowing for some handling profit, too, leaves a minimum margin of about \$3.00 to move cattle to the U.S.

During most of 1951, with the Canadian dollar valued lower than the American dollar, United States buyers had an advantage of about five cents on each dollar. Between September, 1951, and August, 1952, this changed. As the Canadian dollar rose in value, the prices of cattle in Canadian yards would have been forced down if they

were to stay in line with American prices, and permit surplus cattle to be shipped across the line. During the same period a freight rate rise of 15 per cent added another ten cents a hundred to the cost of Canadian steers landed in St. Paul; and this again would drive the Winnipeg price lower.

In 1952, from February to November, the total decline in the Winnipeg price of good feeder steers amounted to \$8.31 a hundredweight, while during the same period, the decline in St. Paul was \$7.39 (Canadian money) leaving only a difference of 92 cents of which ten cents could be written off as the extra cost of higher freight rates. Thus it must be concluded that Canadians who bought feeder cattle in 1951 would have been about as badly off in 1952, had there been no disease outbreak. United States buyers of feeder cattle have experienced a similar drop in price. The only difference between the positions of Canadian and United States feeders was that the improvement in the Canadian rate of exchange in 1952 represented an additional price to cattlemen in this country.

Latin America

Continued from page 7

in the more southerly, temperate climate, especially in the province of Buenos Aires and southward. The principal ports of export are Rosario and Buenos Aires, the capital city.

At Buenos Aires, a fully modern, terminal elevator of Canadian design and equipped with British machinery, went into operation for the first time this year. It was completed about 1941, but the necessary machinery could only be installed very recently.

IN the extreme north of South America is Venezuela, with an area about half again as large as Manitoba and five or six times the population. The population is quite mixed. At present Venezuela is comparatively undeveloped agriculturally, but has almost unlimited oil resources. Oil is, in fact, the chief product of Venezuela, though a major iron ore development is now under way in the Orinoco River country.

Lying next to Venezuela and connected with North America by the Republic of Panama, which joins the two continents, is Colombia, a country with great diversity of resources. Coffee is the principal export, although a great variety of agricultural production is possible, due to differences in altitude, which create a number of climatic zones. Thus, in the coastal plain, coffee and all sorts of tropical fruits can be produced, while in the higher plains, in which Bogota, the principal city, is located, wheat production is fairly important and the livestock industry is well developed. The altitude here is about 8,600 feet above sea level and produces a climate not unlike our own summers. Colombia, at the moment, possesses many modern textile plants, turning out woollen and cotton fabrics. The country is rapidly becoming industrialized. It has known deposits of iron ore, and, in time, will develop a steel industry.

In Cuba, sugar is quite as important as grain production is in western Can-

ada. This is likewise true of the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Cuba is the largest of the West Indies. It grows and exports some tropical fruits, coffee, cacao, and has some mineral wealth. It is about one-sixth as large as Manitoba, and has five or six times the population. The Dominican Republic is less than half as large as Cuba, and Haiti, a part of a same island, about one-quarter as large.

Puerto Rico is the smallest and most densely populated of the islands of the Caribbean. Its chief product, too, is sugar and it also produces some coffee, tobacco and tropical fruits.

Mexico, with less than one-quarter the area of Canada, has about twice our population. It is a country of infinite variety, climatically. It has tropical, temperate and cool zones, depending primarily on altitude. Its rainfall varies from 10 to 200 inches and averages about 60 inches. Parts of the country are a virtual desert; others are heavily forested. Mexico is essentially an agricultural country, and about two-thirds of its people are associated with agriculture. At the same time, Mexico is developing industrially, with great rapidity. She is one of the richest countries in the world in minerals.

ONE of the important developments in Latin America is the trend toward urbanization. Generally speaking, except in Argentina, agricultural development is not keeping pace with industrial development. This means that most Latin American countries are becoming increasingly dependent on imported food products. It is this that is of particular interest to Canadian agriculture.

Some Latin American cities are surprisingly large. Rio de Janeiro, the capital of Brazil, has more than two million people. About two hours southwest of Rio, by air, is Sao Paulo, with about 2.3 million people. I remember standing on the balcony of our embassy in Sao Paulo and counting, in full view, seven new office buildings, each of which would be larger than any office building in Winnipeg. Mexico City has practically doubled its population in the last ten years, and now has about 3.5 million people. Buenos Aires, one of the ten largest cities in the world, has a population of about 4.5 million. Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, is growing by leaps and bounds, and is, in fact, hard to recognize as the same city, after an absence of three or four years. Bogota, the capital of Colombia, is a city of nearly a million people, or about as large as Montreal, the largest Canadian city.

It was my conclusion that practically all of these countries are developing at a rate comparable with that of Canada: in some cases progress is even more rapid. It is this rapid industrialization and urbanization which has created new demands for food, and necessitates large imports of foodstuffs.

One of the things I have noticed each time I have visited Latin America is the good will which exists toward Canada. Each country seems to regard Canada as reflecting its own position somewhat; that is, they regard Canada as a leader among the smaller countries of the world. This good will is an important factor in the development of our trade; and Canada is also playing an important part in the development of these countries. Our largest

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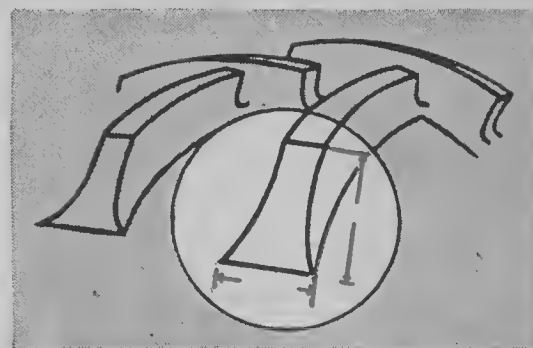
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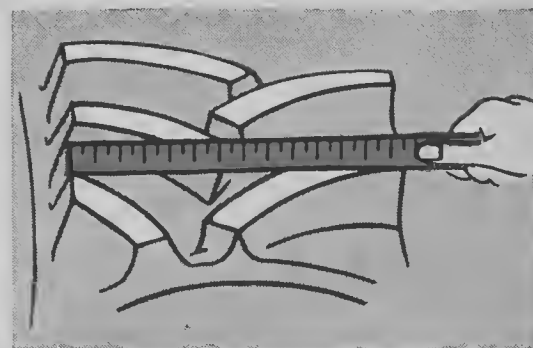
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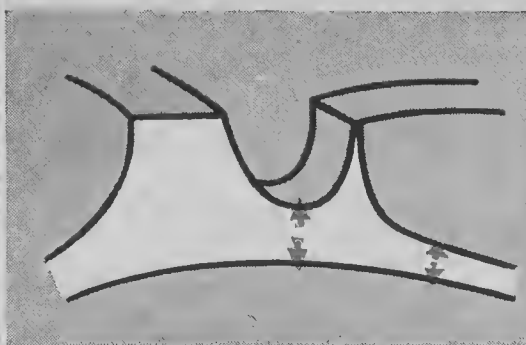
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foreign investment, for example, is in Brazil, where Canadian capital and Canadian engineering, have been largely responsible for the power development in the country. Other Canadian developments are under way in Venezuela and Colombia. There is a growing tendency for Canadian industrial enterprises to establish branch factories in Latin American countries, and this is welcomed by the countries themselves. In fact, they welcome any enterprise which will provide jobs for wage earners and help to increase their living standards.

Nowhere in the world do personal contacts mean as much in trade, as in Latin America. Those who are successful in building markets there are those who build up personal contacts, and once a year or oftener, visit the area in which they are interested and take an interest in its general development. It is impossible to cultivate the Latin American markets by sitting behind a desk in Winnipeg, Toronto, or Montreal.

IN most Latin American countries there is some anxiety about the development of agriculture. They feel that agricultural development should keep up with their industrial development. This, however, is difficult, because industry is competing with agriculture, and industrial workers are paid more in industry than they could possibly be given in agriculture.

Also, in most Latin American countries except Argentina, soil conservation has become a very important problem due to the nature of the country and to fairly heavy annual rainfall. It is increasingly difficult to maintain many of the larger farms which have played such an important part in the progress of agriculture so far. It is not too much to say, perhaps, that agricultural progress in the future will depend on the manner in which they go after the problems of erosion and the leaching out of soils.

In Argentina and in many other Latin American countries, the large estancia, or farm, is still very im-

portant. These large estates reflect the early development of these countries, when large land grants were made to individuals and subsequently handed down from one generation to another. Farms there may consist of anywhere from 50,000 to 100,000 acres. These are devoted principally to cattle production, with acreages here and there in corn, wheat and other grains.

Grain production is really secondary to the production of grass for the feeding of cattle. In many Latin American countries there are large agricultural areas, which can, and will be developed in time. It is a problem of transportation, and the organization of the necessary services to permit settlement. It is probable that farms of smaller size will become increasingly important in the future. In the meantime, however, industrial expansion will continue, and the people of Latin America will try to improve their status by becoming wage earners in urban centers, rather than farmers or farm workers in country areas.

Flowers from May to October

by V. M. SCHEMPP

ON looking over the new seed catalogs, most of us have a few regrets for some of the flowers so common in the East, which require a longer season, more moisture or a milder climate than ours. Scarlet salvia, for instance, is quite a disappointment, as well as all the climbing roses. I have seen tried, wistaria, Chinese lanterns, and so many others. It is true that many beautiful shrubs are too delicate for our short, dry seasons, but it is also true that there are plenty of attractive, hardier varieties, both annual and perennial, which thrive under our extreme conditions. I try a few new ones every year; often they succumb to our cold winters, but from these old "tried and true" varieties, I had a lovely succession of bloom in every hue last year, from May to October.

The Iceland poppies are first to bloom, beginning the tenth of May, or a bit earlier in most seasons. They will continue to bloom until frost, provided the flowers are kept picked, and no seed-pods allowed to form. Mine are white, yellow and orange, but there are attractive shades of rose, pink and salmon to be had in the hybrids, easily grown from seed. I plan to try a few more myself this year, as the younger plants produce the largest blossoms. During the hot weather the flowers become smaller, but they are a lovely splash of color all season long, especially in contrast with blue iris or larkspur.

Next to bloom in the perennial group were the iris; the yellow grass iris beginning about the fourteenth of May and a riot of bloom till the second week of June. The plants seemed to be covered with hundreds of yellow butterflies, and are especially attractive at this time when so few flowers are blooming. Those miniature members of the pansy group, the imp-violets, were next; their season is endless, and their dainty flowers are most appealing; small, violet-shaped, like scraps of black or purple velvet with gold centers. They are always a mass of bloom all summer, and are probably the easiest of all perennials to grow from

seed, blossoming within three months of sowing in most seasons.

Then came the blue iris, light and dark. Their season lasted over a month. Last of all came the smoky iris, my favorite. I do not know their name, but the bloom is large and graceful, resembling wet grey chiffon with faint gold pencillings on the semi-transparent falls. I hope to add to my iris collection this fall, one or two of those tempting shades of rose which are so uncommon.

By the twentieth of May, the lilacs were blooming, single and double, mauve and white, and at the same time the blue flax opened. The flax clumps are a lovely sight on a still morning, covered with sky-blue flowers on long, graceful stems.

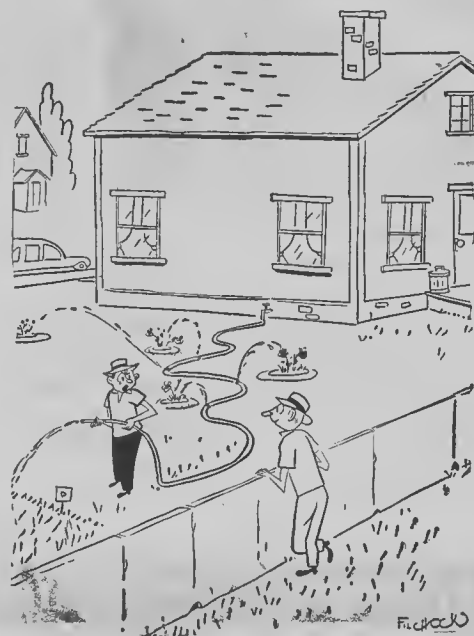
During June, sweet rocket and giant pansies joined the parade; sweet rocket is best planted in some not-too-conspicuous spot, as it grows straggly and unsightly after the first bloom is past. By cutting it back, a second crop of the sweet smelling flowers will appear in late fall. The roses were late, and didn't bloom until July, but the earlier annuals, bachelor buttons, phacelia and California poppies, began to appear, and were in full bloom when the first yellow roses came out on the Scotch rose, my favorite. The roses are

so dainty and fragrant. The Hansa rose is dark red, very hardy and a much sturdier bush than the Scotch rose. I have heard it called the hardiest rose on the prairie.

Also, in July, the orange lilies, delphinium, achillea, columbines, pinks and sweet william were in bloom. The achillea are pure white, like little double chrysanthemums. My only delphiniums are light blue, but the columbines are every imaginable shade and combination of shades. Orchid-and-white, pink-and-cream, red-and-white, pure white and yellow—a whole flower show by themselves. The sweet william and pinks provide a great show of color as well. Some of the pinks are almost as large as carnations, with beautifully ruffled and fringed edges.

My honeysuckle and tulips didn't bloom at all, I'm sorry to say, as both had been transplanted at an unfortunate time of year, but I have great hopes for this year. The golden glow was late, too, having been transplanted rather late in the season, but was a pretty sight, with its large, golden, double flowers in the late fall.

There are a great many easily grown annuals, as well, which will help keep you supplied with bouquets. Phacelia, cornflowers, candytuft (especially the hyacinth-flowered variety), sweet peas, phlox, hybrid California and shirley poppies, nemesia, clarkia, schizanthus, larkspur, cosmos, nicotiana, rose mallows, marigolds, calendula and zinnias are all easily grown by just planting the seeds directly in the garden. If you wish to take the trouble to grow or purchase and transplant bedding plants, you may add petunias in all their wonderful varieties, snapdragons, asters and ten-week-stocks to the list. Don't forget a few scarlet runner beans and morning glories to cover up old fences or buildings. Perhaps you will have a few hardy varieties of your own to add to the list, for I have only begun to experiment. There are still many wonderful varieties in the seed catalogs waiting to be tried, and tested for reliable performance under western conditions.



"... and I said to her, 'I am not going to water your flowers!'"

Wheat Agreement Uncertain

At press time, agreement on a new international wheat agreement has not been reached

AS this is written, the Washington Conference to determine the fate of the International Wheat Agreement has dragged along for eight weeks. No agreement has yet been reached on either the maximum or minimum prices to apply under a renewed agreement. In the long run, Britain and United States have been the hold-outs. All of the exporting countries were ready to insist on a higher price, but the attitude of Canada and Australia has been less rigid than that of the U.S. This was partly because of the political reversal in that country, and partly because of the high cost of subsidizing I.W.A. wheat under the present U.S. parity price policy, which amounts to between 60 and 70 cents per bushel on about 250 million bushels of wheat. The U.S., therefore, began by demanding a price of \$2.50, relenting by degrees to \$2.15.

Britain, on the other hand, is traditionally a tough bargainer, as witness the earlier agreement with Canada, and the first international agreement. She began in Washington, by protesting any increase over the \$1.80 maximum of the first agreement, but eventually yielded as far as \$1.95, realizing, but unwilling to admit, that her first position was only slightly

more tenable than that of the United States at \$2.50.

THE British bargaining position was strengthened by the fact that the exporting countries, including Argentina (which has expressed a willingness to enter into a new agreement), had between them for export and carryover, as at January 1, 1,522.4 million bushels of wheat, an increase of nearly 500 million bushels since January 1, 1952. Of this large amount, the United States had 723.6 million (223.3 million more than last year); Canada 572.7 million (139.3 million more); Argentina 121 million (118.7 million more); and Australia 105.1 million (13.2 million more).

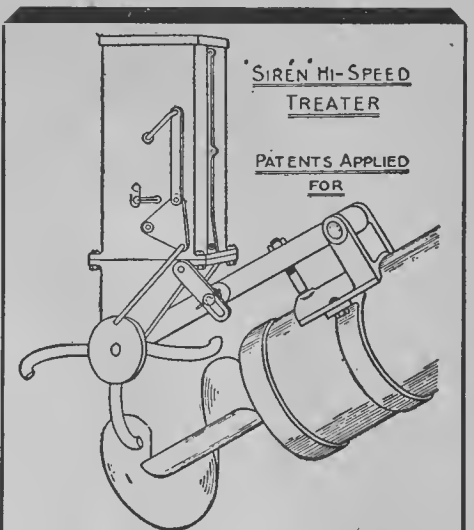
Despite these impressive figures, the average Class II wheat price for each of the months of January and February was \$2.18½ cents, 38 cents above the maximum Agreement price. Furthermore, Class II prices have been consistently close to, or above this level, for almost the entire period of the build-up.

The negotiations were so protracted that the representatives of the farm organizations acting as advisors to the Canadian delegation, left the conference about the end of the seventh week. The Canadian position had be-

come pretty well established, as one of waiting for the two large protagonists to achieve, or fail to achieve, more common ground. Official statements were almost non-existent, but in any conference where 46 countries are involved, enterprising press representatives are usually able to find out, with reasonable accuracy, the quarter in which the wind is blowing hardest. It seems reasonably apparent that practically all of the countries involved, both importers and exporters, would like to see a renewal of the agreement. Most, probably, would find some middle ground more quickly than either the U.K. or the U.S.

THERE is, of course, no certainty at this time, that there will be an agreement. If compromise becomes impossible, the Canadian Wheat Board could carry on. If, under such circumstances Canada should effect a bilateral agreement with Britain, the price stipulated in such an agreement might be made to apply in Canada, also. We do have that much government interference with Wheat Board policy.

Out of it all, one fact seems now to be fairly clear, namely, that, unless Britain raises the anti above \$1.95 there will be no renewal. Should she come up another 15 cents, the United States delegation might conceivably agree to present an agreement on this basis to Congress for ratification. The U.S. Congress, would then have the last word.



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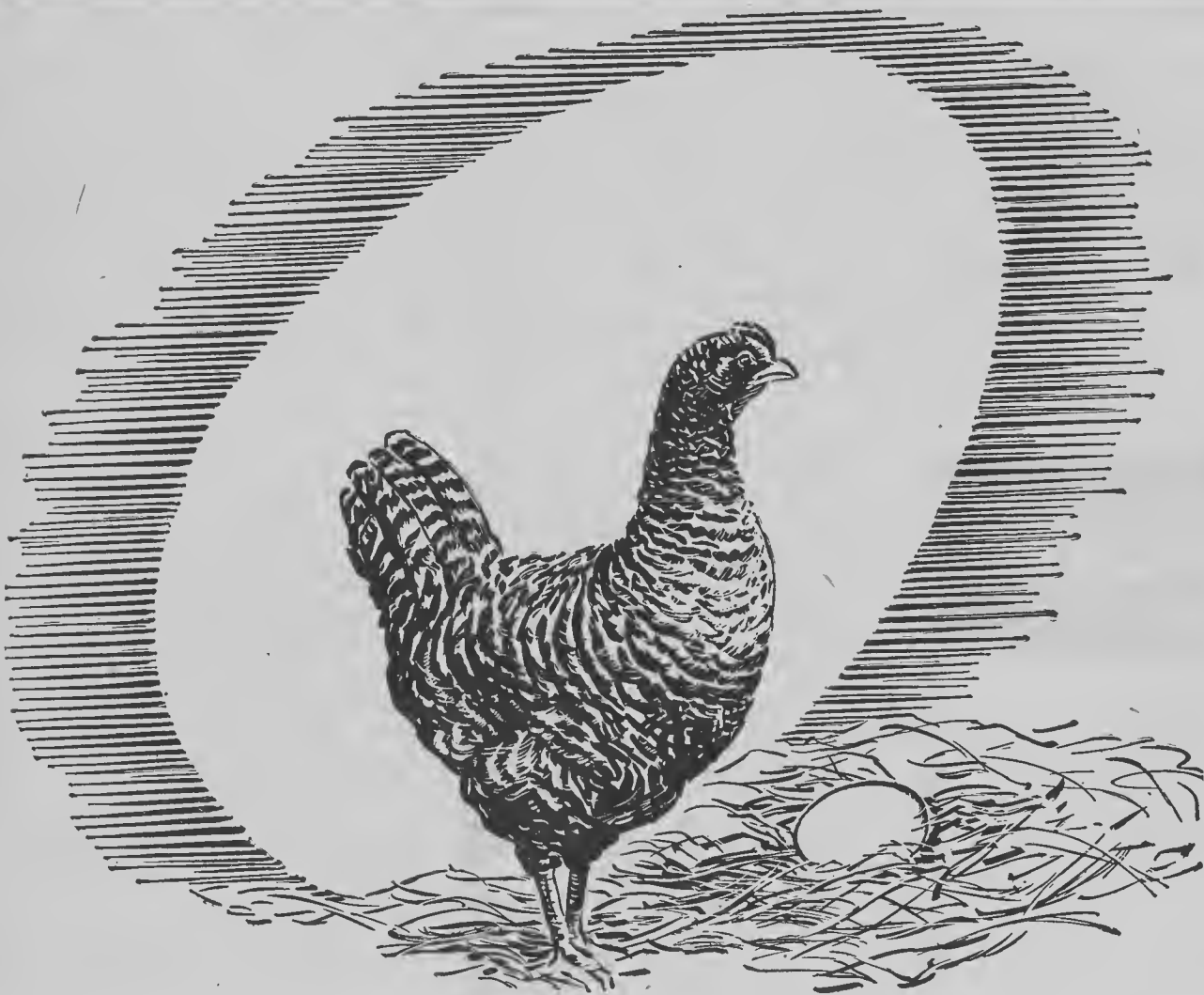
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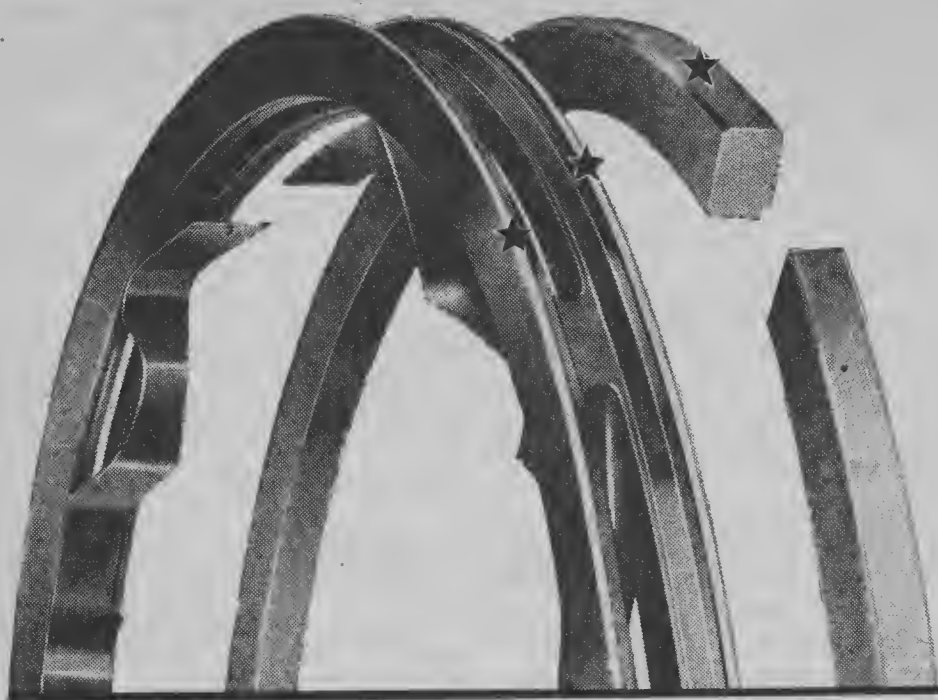
Encourage your children to have a nest egg, too. Our booklet "Financial Training for your Son and Daughter" describes a practical plan for teaching your children how to handle their own financial affairs. Ask for your free copy at any branch.

Getting ideas from a china egg

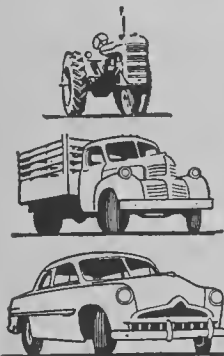
In days gone by, many a farmer's wife had faith in the china egg as a "starter" for reluctant hens. It was supposed to suggest to them that laying eggs was a good idea. A "nest egg" in the Royal Bank is a good idea, too. It is a strong inducement to you—to save more. As deposit follows deposit, you watch your savings grow. Then, almost before you know it, saving has become a habit . . . and a useful one. Build up your nest egg at the Royal Bank. There's no prettier picture than a healthy looking bank book.

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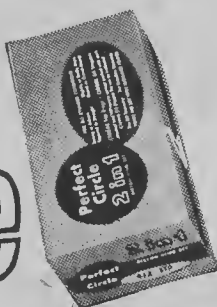
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B.C. Letter

British Columbia's political and economic pot is still boiling, though in some respects not so merrily

by CHAS. L. SHAW

SOcial CREDIT'S honeymoon with British Columbia appears to be over, although Premier W. A. C. Bennett and his followers are doing their best to make the marriage a lasting success.

The situation in the legislature this spring was complicated and baffling. Some odd situations were presented. The Liberals, for instance, blasted the Social Crediters at every turn, and so did the official opposition—the C.C.F.: but when the chips were down, the Liberals voted with the party in power, even though they earned the sobriquet of hypocrites from the Socred leader by doing so.

The reason for the Liberals' attitude was an unwillingness to defeat the Social Credit government on a division in the house. If the government lost an important vote, it would automatically set the stage for an early election, which the Liberals do not want, since they are still suffering the pangs of defeat and disunity brought about by their humiliating experience in the election last June. The Liberals want time to repair their fences, and so do the Conservatives, who are reduced now to only two members.

The C.C.F., on the other hand, has no such fears. It would like to unseat the Social Crediters at the first opportunity, because its leader, Harold Winch, maintains that the C.C.F. should be called upon to form a government in that event; and that there would be constitutional justification for such action. He does not want an election. Since British Columbia has traditionally returned only a minority of C.C.F. members, it is doubtful whether another election would favor their chances.

The government has been severely criticized by spokesmen for the great forest and mining industries, for introducing legislation that would add to their taxes at a time when they are faced with a recession. Lumber markets are in a slump; and many mines have been forced to shut down, because of declining metal prices and continuing high costs of operation.

The government also earned the enmity of the teaching profession, when one of its back-benchers delivered a scathing attack on the whole education system, for which he was reprimanded by members of almost every party, including his own.

The Socred administration is pledged to a policy of "pay-as-you-go" and this, of course, has meant retrenchment. This has brought considerable resentment among the civil servants. The policy of trying to get along without borrowing has been assailed by C.C.F.-leader Winch, who foresees difficulty in the financing of essential public works, if no funds are borrowed. "Sometimes it is a good thing to borrow," says Mr. Winch, "especially if your credit is good and you are planning to spend millions on long-term projects."

To this Premier Bennett replies: "This period of inflation, when the dollar is worth only 47 cents, is not the time to float large bond issues and pay them back in real money. And we'll go to the country at any time on that issue."

It is also a part of Socred strategy to emphasize the shortcomings of the previous coalition and Liberal administrations. For that reason, much is being made of the devastation in the Nechako district as a result of flooding for the Aluminum Co. of Canada's huge hydro-electric project. The Socreds claim that the coalition government should have made a better deal with the aluminum company, and secured its guarantee that the timber in the flooded area would first be salvaged, and that wild life and fisheries would be protected. The Socreds charge that British Columbia lost some \$26,000,000 in lake values and other considerations because of the "bad bargain," in return for which the province actually receives only about \$125,000 a year for the use of water.

Actually, of course, the province gets more than that. For one thing, it gets an investment estimated at half a billion dollars in one of the world's greatest power plants and aluminum smelters, and the creation of a new community in an area previously neglected.

THERE has also been a good deal of ruckus over the government's removal of milk controls above the producer level. The C.C.F. maintains that this may result in higher retail prices to a majority of consumers. The Socred answer to that is that decontrol was actually planned by the preceding government, but was withdrawn at the last minute because of the protest of high-placed Liberals.

However, politics is not the only subject on British Columbians' minds these days. Every group has its problems. The farmers are worried over the loss of export markets, but this is a source of anxiety shared by all producers in the west coast province. The plight of the forest and mining industries has been mentioned. Even more serious is the situation confronting the fishing industry.

Towns such as Steveston at the mouth of the Fraser River which normally is a busy little community, depending almost 100 per cent on the earnings of fishermen and cannery workers, are almost ghost settlements, with store fronts boarded up and the streets deserted. Last year's experience in the fishing industry was a tragic one.

No less than five tie-ups resulted from disputes between fishermen and packers over the question of prices to be paid for raw fish. This, of course, meant sharp curtailment in earnings for everyone concerned—an estimated \$15,000,000, according to one authority.

On top of this was the problem of lost markets and a carryover of some 600,000 cases of unsold canned salmon. A surplus of this size still remains; and unless the United Kingdom changes its policy and buys, there is not much hope for relief this season.

When export markets are diminished, the whole economy of the province suffers. It is suffering now.

Note: This letter was in type when the B.C. Social Credit government was defeated in the Legislature. The situation is not clear as we go to press.—Ed.

Paddle Valley

Continued from page 10

registered, Yorkshire pigs. The sows are bred in December and average eight to a litter. In summer the pigs run in a large pasture of mixed legumes and grasses, obtaining their water from a deep dugout. At two months, the young pigs are weaned, and start on sifted oat chop, with the addition of salt, ground limestone, and hog mineral mixture. The feeder pigs eat from a self-feeder into which the grains are ground directly. Brood sows are fed separately, mostly oat chop, with the addition of salt, ground limestone, and when in pig, sow concentrate mixed directly into the feed. Swine are marketed at between 200 and 220 pounds, and shipped by truck to Edmonton.

Other livestock include a few Toulouse geese, raised strictly for the Liss table, a goat, and a purebred ram. Of the goat which runs with the herd, John Liss, who attends university field days, and works hand-in-hand with L. Peacock, the district agriculturist, says rather defiantly, "Well, the Old Country farmers used to say that a goat keeps away disease. Not that I entirely believe that, mind you—on the other hand, I don't entirely disbelieve it, either. Anyway, I like to see a goat around." So the Liss herd has its mascot. The ram, having a distinguished ancestry, was saved for this year when Mr. Liss plans to start up again in sheep.

THE Liss home, set in lawn and flower beds, is reached by a quarter-mile avenue of Colorado blue spruce, Manitoba maple, ash and elm, now about 14 feet high. Of these trees, Mary Liss tells a tale on her neighbors. The young Lisses began to plant trees before they even dug the basement for their house. All the farmers near them laughed at the "durn young fools," who were planting trees when every sensible settler was rooting them out as fast as he could. However, by the time five years had passed, the same wise men were begging the "young fools" for seedlings! The Liss home is built of lumber, logged, sawn, and finished right on the homestead. Inside, it is now—thanks to the power line—as modern and comfortable as any city home of comparable size.

North of the house is the orchard, about one acre in extent, enclosed in a shelterbelt of Colorado blue spruce and maple. John Liss is currently experimenting with the newer varieties of Morden crabapples. Three kinds of currants, red, white and black, are flanked by the gooseberry patch, from which the family gathered over 500 quarts last year.

The raspberry patch is being used to point up the benefit of fertilizer for small fruits. The fertilized canes yield continuously, are obviously healthier, taller and stronger than the unfertilized canes. John Liss is also experimenting with more exotic plants, including Nanking cherries, Manchurian and Siberian apricots. He says that so far the apricots have only reached the flowering stage, because early frost spoils the chance of fruiting. He hopes eventually to evolve something that will stand up to this country's short growing season.

Because he is an ardent believer in the value of clover and alfalfa, Mr. Liss "boards" 35 hives of bees for a

Sangudo beekeeper. The bee yard, sheltered by the usual blue spruce, maple, elm, and ash, is reached through a rustic gate. It is impressive for its five genuine oak trees. These were taken as seedlings from the Provincial Forestry Station at Oliver, and at 14 years, are between eight and 12 feet high. Also in the bee yard are the Osman crabs, obtained from the Lethbridge Experimental Station. Up to now, John Liss has found the Osman to be the hardiest variety of fruit tree for Alberta.

A tree-lined lane runs west from the farmyard. All of the fields are easily accessible from this lane. All of them have clumps of native spruce and poplar left for soil control and shade for the herd. In the three pastures, there are dugouts among the trees, for convenience in watering the herd of 40 high-grade Herefords.

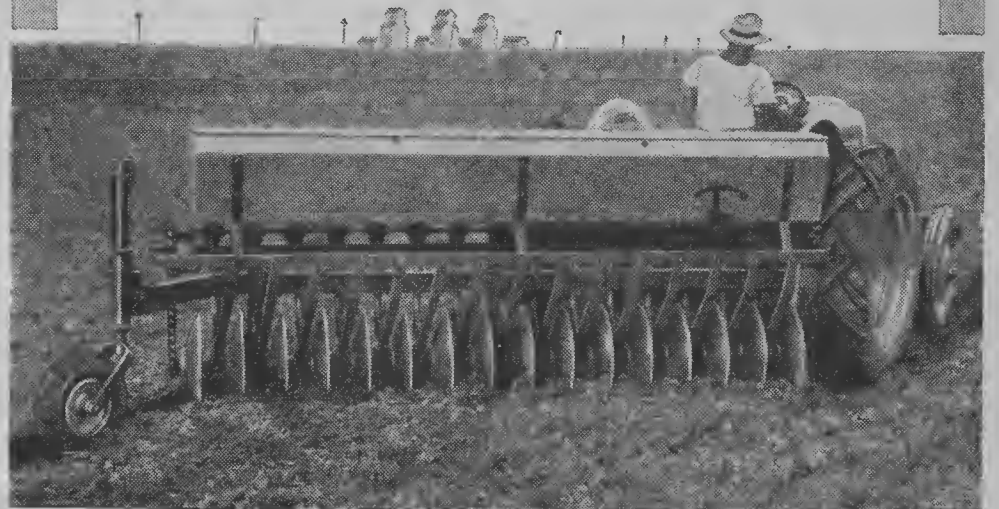
BOTH John and Mary Liss are active in community affairs and always have been. John organized the Pembina Valley Seed Growers' Co-operative, now a component part of the Alberta Seed Growers' Co-operative. He was first president of the constituency of the U.F.A. Co-operative, now the Maple Leaf. He is still district delegate to the F.U.A. He has been for many years a member of the Poplar School Board and the Sangudo Board of Trade. On August 15, 1952, he climaxed a life of public service, and saw the fulfillment of a personal dream. At a banquet celebrating the turning on of the power, ex-President John Liss addressed the members of the Paddle Valley Rural Electrification Co-operative Association. He had pushed the power through by his own determination and the co-operation of his neighbors.

Mrs. Liss was first president of the Sangudo Home and School Association, is currently president of the Sangudo United Church Ladies' Aid, is assistant club leader in young people's work, an officer in the Canadian Legion Auxiliary, and Garden Club leader. As to gardens, the house and grounds of the Liss farm look as if they belonged on the cover of a farm beautification booklet. For many years the farm was used as a Federal illustration station, but this was discontinued when John enlisted in World War II.

All of the children were active in Junior Club work, winning proficiency prizes from the Olds and Vermilion Schools of Agriculture. Since Teddy, the second youngest son, reached his majority, the Liss farm has been run as a partnership. Teddy is a full partner in John Liss and Son. The arrangement is that Teddy is to get half of the increase in the breeding cattle, and half of the net proceeds of the farm. He has a half interest in all machinery bought since the partnership was formed. The idea is to enable Teddy to take over all the land and machinery in a few years, at a fair valuation.

Ask John Liss what has contributed most to his success as a farmer and citizen, and he will answer, in order of importance, the following: A good wife, a co-operative family, helpful district agriculturists, and alfalfa and clover. His attitude to his land is contained in his farming credo, "It is a farmer's duty to leave his land in better fertility than he found it, and to keep it in good health for the generations that follow."

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42-3

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"Blood" and Frogs From the Skies

Farmers know of some tricks the weatherman can play, but here are a few known only in other countries

by NORMAN HOLDEN

NOT long ago 20,000 tons of sand from the Sahara rained down on Piedmont in Northern Italy and on the Austrian province of Styria. In Piedmont, the peasants working in the fields were amazed to see a yellow snowstorm sweeping upon them, while in like fashion in Styria, the countryside was covered with snow, not of the usual color, but reddish in hue.

This was not the first time that Europe had been visited by such strange snowstorms. The greatest and most striking fall was that of 1901, when snow and rain colored by sand, fell in areas from Sicily in the Mediterranean right up to the Baltic Sea. Another heavy fall took place a few years ago in Germany, the snow in this case being of a rusty yellow color, and once the ancient carpet town of Kars, in Turkey reported the fall of an inch of red snow.

Such freak occurrences are of great interest to meteorologists, and in the case of the fall in Germany they reported that it was due to desert sand which had been whirled up into the higher atmosphere and carried thousands of miles. In the case of the Italian and Austrian downfalls, Dr. Roschkott, a professor at the Central Institute of Meteorology in Vienna, investigated the phenomenon, and reported that the curious color of the snow was caused by sand swept from the vastnesses of the Sahara Desert, the particular tint varying with the area of origin.

Today we are fairly certain as to the cause of these happenings, but in olden days they were looked upon with superstitious fear and regarded as evil portents. The chroniclers of the time took special pains to mention such "uncanny" occurrences.

Just over seven centuries ago a three-day shower of blood-red rain was reported throughout southern Italy and in the island of Rhodes. Ten years earlier observers in Syria described a fall of snow which melted and flowed in carmine rivers of "blood," or some fluid very much resembling it. In 1222 Rome experienced an even more uncommon phenomenon, for it rained dust mixed with "blood" for three days, and when the heavy clouds drifted away it looked as if the sun was swimming in a sea of fire.

Superstition may account for some exaggeration with regard to these happenings, but we know they are not all "stories" because queer weather is experienced today. Some 20 years ago certain parts of France were subjected to showers of red rain, those at Toulon being blood-red. At Aix and Arles, in contrast, yellow showers fell, while at Hyeres the rain was black. Once the colored rains spread as far north as Paris.

Sometimes the strangest effects are brought about by such rain, as when the whole countryside at Salinas, in southeast Spain, was painted a vivid red by rain which fell during a thunderstorm. Sometimes France and Italy receive showers of colored rain at approximately the same time. In April, 1932, for example, rain described as inky black, was reported from southwest France, and at the same time "mud rain" fell at Florence, Genoa, and elsewhere in Italy. It was

stated that the rain contained mineral materials, probably sand from Africa, from where the wind had been blowing the previous few days.

The great German naturalist of the last century, Christian Ehrenburg, was perhaps the first man to discover the cause of these rains. About 100 years ago he carried out investigations which showed that the red rains of Italy were due to red dust in the atmosphere carried from Africa, together with millions of microscopic skeletons of creatures which had lived in pools formed in the Sahara during the wet season.

Travelling right to the other side of the world we meet similar evidence of "deserts that fly"—in this case the gigantic Central Desert of Australia. There the dust is whipped up by the wind and mingles with the clouds. Then, as the rain falls, so a speck of dust falls with each drop. Clothes, flowers and leaves all become speckled with red, and in some cases it is nearly impossible to remove the stain. More remarkable still is the fact that the wind carries the dust to fall on ships at sea, and some of it reaches New Zealand, 3,000 miles away from the desert. But the colored showers in Australia are not so frequent as in Italy, Victoria having recorded only about ten visitations.

The New World is not free from freak storms either. The appearance of brown snow has been investigated by scientists in northern Ontario, Canada. They reported it contained feldspar, quartz and diatoms, and it was believed that the snow had been colored by clouds of fine soil blown north from the dust regions of the southern states.

One spring, a freak blizzard plastered hundreds of miles in the so-called "dust bowl" area of Kansas and Oklahoma, in the United States, with chocolate-colored mud. Tearing along at 40 m.p.h., the wind whirled dust from regions burned up by two years of drought and mixed it with snow. Daylight was obliterated as the blizzard whipped its curious mixture from coal-black skies.

PROBABLY more fantastic than colored rains and colored snows are falls of frogs and fish. It is certain that such things do occur. On one occasion the streets of the town of Frankston, in Victoria, were covered with jelly-fish which fell with the rain. At just about the same time, after a very hot day, a thunderstorm broke over the old town of Grenoble, in France, when people in one quarter were astonished to find themselves subjected to a rain of thousands of frogs.

California has also known a rain of frogs, when there were so many of the creatures that traffic could not avoid crushing them.

The housewives of Bordeaux, in France, have been able on at least one occasion to gather fish in the road when a water spout broke suddenly over the port; and a few years ago a town in Tuscany had not only pink rain, but with it a host of little fish. A phenomenon like that at Bordeaux was seen around Lake Varese. During a violent storm a waterspout, which formed on the lake, broke on the shore and let fall a veritable rain of fish. In certain towns of the Honduras fish regularly fall during the wet season, and they are large enough to be gathered up and eaten by the natives.

Because such happenings seem to take place when violent winds or waterspouts are present, it is believed that the fish and frogs are caught up by the violence of the wind or water and whirled into the air, to be dropped, finally, to the amazement of those in the vicinity.

It is easy to realize how in the past such happenings were regarded as visitations of heaven. One would like to have been able to see the reactions of the people in a part of Norway, where, four centuries ago, a rain of rats suddenly descended upon them. No wonder the event was put down as an act of the devil. Probably what happened was that a horde of migrating rats was whirled up by some violent wind and carried some distance before being dropped.



Serving ice cream and dairy foods and drinks is now big business, but it could be bigger if the public knew more about the delicious combinations dairy products make possible.

The Country Boy and Girl



LITTLE grey fairies are popping up all over the prairies. The warm, sweet April air calls to the crocuses to show their woolly heads. Soon the warm sun opens these fairy buds and our beautiful mauve crocuses appear to gladden our hearts with a promise of spring.

Did you know that birds and animals help each other to find food and shelter? Beavers, when cutting down

trees to store in their pond for winter food, often cut down more trees than they are able to move to their pond in the fall. The trees they leave behind are very welcome to the snowshoe rabbit during the winter when the snow is deep and food is hard to find.

Coyotes often follow elk in search of food. When the elk paws away deep snow to get down to grass, the coyotes can often snatch a nest of mice which the elk uncovers.

Cowbirds ride on the backs of horses and cattle and feed on the insects which annoy these animals. Magpies follow foxes and coyotes in the hope of picking up scraps whenever the coyote makes a kill. The woodpecker provides homes for red squirrels, mice or screech owls who find that the nesting holes which the woodpecker has made will just suit them for a home after the woodpecker has gone away.



Ann Sankey

The Seasons

I like summer,
With its berries,
Its saskatoons
And wild chokecherries.

I like autumn
With its trees
And drifting leaves,
Up to my knees.

I like winter
With its sliding,
Skating, skiing,
And sleigh riding.

But now in April
I like best
Spring winds blowing
From the west!

—AUDREY MCKIM.

April Showers

by Mary Grannan

IT had been raining for days. Skies were grey. Meadow brooks were brimming. Umbrellas were sagging, and Matilda was sobbing.

"Oh dear," she cried into her pink checkered handkerchief, "isn't it ever going to stop raining?"

"Shame on you, Matilda," said Matilda's mother. "Haven't you ever heard, April showers bring forth May flowers?"

"I don't care," said Matilda, unhappily. "I don't care if we have any May flowers, or not. I want to go outdoors. I haven't had a ride on my new tricycle. I haven't had a chance to wear my new hat. Rain! Rain! Go away! Little Matilda wants to play with her new tricycle."

But the rain paid no heed. It kept pouring down, and splashing against the windowpanes. Matilda turned to her mother again, "Mum, what makes it rain so much?" she asked.

Mother laughed merrily and said, "Oh, I don't know, unless there's a hole in the rain bucket up there in the clouds."

"Is there a rain bucket up there, Mum?" asked the little girl, seriously.

Mother laughed again. "I don't know that either, but that's what my

grandmother used to say to me, when I was a child."

"Mum," said Matilda, "I think that your grandmother was right. I think that's just what has happened. If I could climb up there, with my needle and thread, I could sew up the hole in the bucket."

"Darling," said mother, "I think the thing to do is to wait patiently until the rain is over. There's nothing you can do about the weather," Mrs. Matthews left the living room and Matilda.

Matilda was still thinking about the rain bucket in the sky. "I could mend it," she said to herself. "I know I could mend it if I were up there, but I don't know how to get up there. If I were a spider, I could spin a web and climb up." Matilda laughed aloud. She had an idea. She would find a spider, and ask him to go mend the rain bucket.

She began to search around and about. She could find no spiders in the living room. She went into the hall and up the stairway. No spiders! She went to the kitchen.

"Mum," she said, "I wish you weren't so clean."

"What did you say, Matilda? Did I hear you saying that you wished I weren't so clean?" said Mrs. Matthews.

Matilda nodded.

"But why should you wish such a thing?" asked her amazed mother.

"Because I can't find a spider anywhere in this whole house, and I'm looking for a spider," said Matilda.

"Try the garage," laughed Mrs. Matthews, turning back to her work.

Matilda ran for her rain cape, and tossing it over her shoulders, she raced to the garage. She found a fat grey spider in the corner of the window frame.

"Hello, Mr. Spider," Matilda said. "We're having a lot of rain, aren't we?"

The grey fellow nodded his head. "Yes," he said, "I do wish it would stop. I'd like to spin a web on the currant bushes, but it would be washed away in no time."

Matilda nodded her head. "Mr. Spider, I know a way that you can stop the rain." The spider looked up

with questioning eyes. "Spin a web to the sky," said Matilda, "and when you get up there, sew up the hole in the rain bucket. You can do it with your thread. I know you can."

The spider peered skyward. "It's a long way," he said, "it would take me from now to sunset, to get there."

"But it would be worth the trip," smiled Matilda, winsomely, "and you could slide home quickly, and tomorrow you could spin your web in the currant bushes, and I could wear my new hat and ride my new tricycle."

"I'll do it," said Mr. Spider, as he crawled through a hole in the windowpane.

The next morning, Matilda was awakened by a sunbeam kissing her face. She leapt from her bed, and ran downstairs. "Do you see it, Mum? Do you see the sun? He did it. Mr. Spider did it. I must go say 'thank you'."

The pyjama-clad Matilda rushed outdoors to the currant bushes. Mr.

Spider was not there. She hunted all day for him, but could not find him.

Mother laughed merrily, and said that the weatherman had promised fine weather today. But Matilda knew that it was Mr. Spider's mending the bucket that had put an end to the April showers.

Springtime First

The first tiny bird note,
The first sprig of green,
The first furry crocus
With silvery sheen;
The first shining sunbeam
That felt really warm . . .
All these I have found
Have a heart-thrilling charm,
For which through the dark days
Of winter I thirst;
The charm of the magical
Springtime first!

—EFFIE BUTLER.

Sketch Pad Out-of-Doors

No. 15 of Series—by CLARENCE TILLENIUS

TOWARD the end of winter and in the late fall are two seasons when the artist, who likes to draw trees, gets his best opportunity to study the form of the tree—its anatomy, as it were.

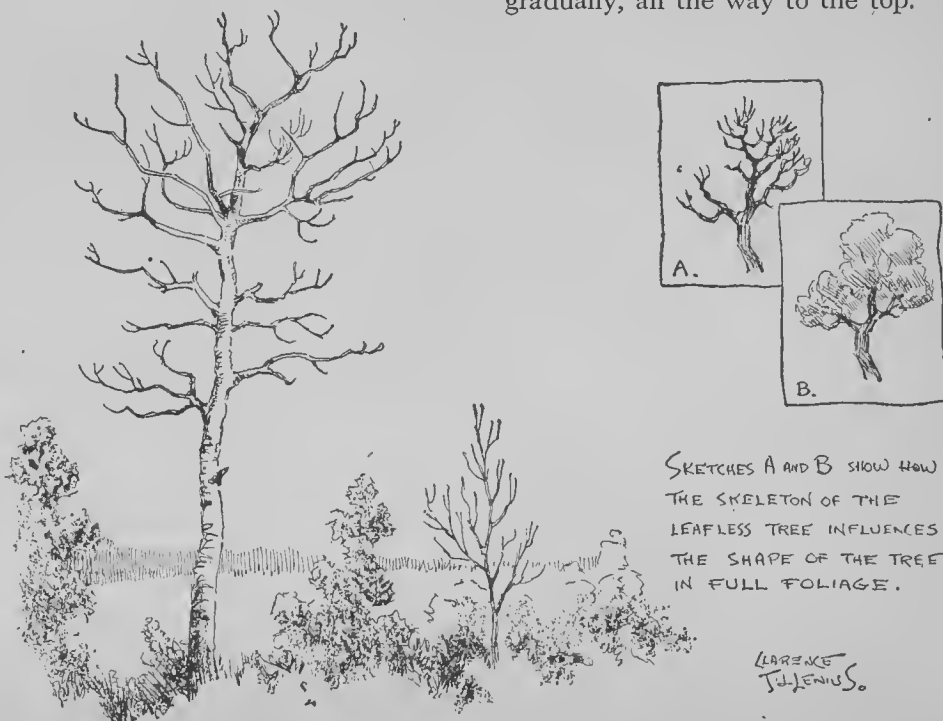
Though one might not think so, the way in which the buds grow out on the twig indicates the growth pattern of the branches on the tree. This is of special interest to the artist because; since each type of tree has its own particular bough arrangement, even a twig of that tree must have its buds placed correctly in your drawing. So if you are drawing off a twig, say of a birch, one should be able to tell from your drawing that it is a birch, not an elm or poplar.

It is an interesting study to make several drawings of some rugged old tree near your home, in the fall or winter, when all its leaves are gone, and then to make some more drawings of that same tree in the summer when it is in full foliage. Now compare the winter sketch with that done in the summer—each of course has been done

from the same angle. Notice how the arrangement of the branches has influenced the outline shape of the foliage.

It is a good idea to paint or draw these studies in black and white, working in the sunshine if possible, since you then get a sharp and clearcut subject to work from. Also, you should sketch at various hours of the day to determine when the tree has the most interesting lighting. The light falling on the tree gives it quite a different appearance in the forenoon, than in the late afternoon.

The accompanying sketch is from a drawing done in summer of two dead trees, an old poplar and a sapling. As you will note, they are very like any of their neighboring trees seen in winter. Such a sketch has the added advantage that you can study them side by side, with trees in full leaf. Notice particularly the angle at which a tree's branches grow from the trunk. Remember that a tree trunk is always slightly smaller in diameter above a branch, than below it—so that it tapers gradually, all the way to the top.



THE Country GUIDE

with which is incorporated

THE NOR'-WEST FARMER and FARM and HOME
Serving the farmers of Western Canada Since 1882

VOL. LXXII WINNIPEG, APRIL, 1953 No. 4

Problems of Our Era

THE American writer, Christopher Morley, once wrote: "We must be of our own era, or we are nothing: We must sit in it like frogs in a pond, with our eyes bulging just a little bit over the scum." Not only has the era in which we have lived since 1914 been unprecedented for the world-shaking events which have characterized it, but also for the uncertainties and the questionings which it has brought about. It has been an era in which it has not been easy to keep one's eyes above the scum.

We must blame the steadily increasing complexity of our existence for most of the uncertainties which surround us. These complexities are very real for all of us; and for farmers no less than for others in the Canadian economy. Time was when we could live in Canada and be only Canadians. Not many of us even realized that Britain's king was our king, too. Now we are world citizens. While we argue at home about the development of an irrigation and power project on the South Saskatchewan River, we are at the same time sending men, money and equipment to develop an irrigation and power project in Pakistan, as part of the Colombo Plan. As Parliament meets to conduct the business of Canada, the Canadian secretary of state for external affairs presides over the United Nations General Assembly. At the time Canadian representatives meet the representatives of 45 other countries to decide whether the International Wheat Agreement should be renewed, a portion of our armed forces is fighting in Korea, and another portion is in Europe, in fulfillment of our obligations as a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

It is not easy to live in the twilight that exists between a war that has been ended, and a peace that has not yet been concluded, or between the beginning and the end of a revolution that is not only international in character, but social, economic, political and spiritual in scope. A twilight is neither daylight, nor darkness, but a mixture of both; and so it is with our affairs today. Life for us is not as simple as it was for our fathers; but neither are the amenities of living today as crude, or as few. If science appears to encourage the cult of materialism by its indiscriminate gifts, it is still true that our hopes and our ideals remain the measures of our minds. Democracy is not the fruit of science, but of the spirit; and profit can be the just reward of virtue, as well as of dishonesty.

The great affairs of mankind now involve all of the earth's peoples, because of our increasing dependence upon each other. Each of us is swept along at the mercy of circumstance, not too certain about our ideas of today, and only more certain about our ideals for tomorrow. The great human movements of the last two centuries have amply demonstrated that the upward progress of mankind is not vertical, but spiral. One says that this is the will of God, another that it is the way evolution works: neither can prove the other wrong, or that both are not right.

"War," said the German philosopher Nietzsche, more than fifty years ago, "is a biological necessity." Perhaps. Certainly, wars have not ceased. Certainly, too, wars stir the collective mind of man, as nothing else stirs it. Out of World War II an active idealism has evolved, which not only centers in the United Nations, but would appear to have established a clear and affirmative answer to the age-old question of Cain. We do now believe ourselves to be our brother's keeper; and the proof lies in the various agencies of the UN, such as FAO, UNESCO, and WHO; in the Colombo Plan and the Point Four Program; in the Schuman Plan and the proposed Green Pool for Europe; and in the proposals for European and world government.

While we collectively attempt to clear up our uncertainties and end our doubts, life must go on for us as individuals. The more we can do for ourselves, either personally or co-operatively, the more secure we will be from worry, or the anxieties of insecurity. Maximum security today is found only in those countries where average individual production is at a high level, and where a high general level of individual efficiency is regarded as a protection against the storms and stresses of our era. Only as we succeed in this can we be certain of justifying our faith in the democratic way of life and of being in, and of, our era.

Two Blades of Grass

SPEAKING in Edmonton recently, to the Conference on Agricultural Research and Extension, O. S. Longman, deputy minister of agriculture, for Alberta, said:

"The great purpose and challenge extended to those of us in this great enterprise, is to stimulate the natural affinity that exists between man and the soil; to bind or weld together these two fundamental elements, to the mutual and perpetual advantage and preservation of each. Next to obtaining peace on earth and good will among men, agriculture offers the biggest job on earth."

It is true that man does not live by bread alone, but it is equally true that he must have bread, the synonym of food. It is the farmer's job to produce it, and close to two out of every three people throughout the world are associated directly with its production.

Many factors enter into the production of farm products. Last month in parliament, the minister of agriculture, Mr. Gardiner, in defending the policies of the Liberal party with respect to agriculture, said:

"... on an average in each of the last three years, we produced five million tons more food than was produced on our farms in each of the last three years of the war. Food production is the highest in our experience. The reason for the increase is to be found in the fact that the only part of the Dominion of Canada that produces more food than it can eat, is the prairie provinces."

If we say, of wheat, that a normal crop yields 450 million bushels, the 1952 crop of 688 million bushels, produced an increase of more than seven million tons. Using 1,500 pounds of food per capita per year as the total weight of all kinds of foods estimated as required for a high standard of living, this increase would feed approximately ten million people.

It is over-simplification to say that the weather was responsible for this increase. This is one of the generalities of which Bacon said, "It is in the nature of the mind of man, to the extreme prejudice of knowledge, to delight in the spacious liberty of generalities." The weatherman did provide an indispensable part of the conditions under which such a crop could be grown. Taking advantage of these conditions, however, the farmers of western Canada produced the crop, by a combination of timeliness, summerfallowing, good seed, fertilizers, mechanization, chemical weed control, pest-resistant varieties, and trash cover.

The average prairie yield per acre, though a record, was nevertheless under 27 bushels, a figure which is regularly exceeded by many farmers in a normal year. In 1952, there were many yields of 40, 50 and probably 60 bushels per acre, or more. That more producers did not better the average yield, is due to the fact that many did not apply those practices which are known to be beneficial in wheat production. Had such practices been applied by those who could have applied them, but did not, last year's crop might well have reached 800 million bushels or more, and the extra bushels would have represented, generally, clear gain to the producer.

Agriculture cannot lag behind other segments of the national economy and expect what is often called "a fair share of the national income." Today, Canadian agriculture is not prosperous; it is only relatively more prosperous than it was ten years ago. In the speech referred to above, Mr. Gardiner also said:

"... I think one would be able to show that about 90 per cent of the farmers in the eastern

part of Canada do not make enough money to pay income tax at all. I think it would also be found that, on an average, not more than 15 per cent of the western farmers have sufficient income to be able to pay income tax."

Our point is that these percentages of taxable farm incomes are too small for an industry that is commonly regarded as prosperous. They are smaller than need be, if existing information were more generally used. They are also smaller than they need be, if provincial governments would give greater recognition to the urgent need for, and the returns to be secured from agricultural extension services.

A more general prosperity for the farmer will not come from wheat agreements, or floor prices, useful as these may be as stabilizing devices. Nor are they likely to come from one political party, more than from another. If the standard of farm living is to be raised, the most powerful jack that can be placed under it is a higher yield per acre, or per man-hour. Should anyone doubt this, let him visit any rural community and find out whose yields are generally above the average for the district. Given a reasonable equality of soil, these farmers will almost invariably be those who make the best use of available information, and of their time.

European Green Pool

LAST month in Paris, France, representatives from 17 European countries met to explore the feasibility of yet another of the international organizations that have been so characteristic of the postwar period. This one is the so-called "Green Pool," an organization proposed two years ago by M. Pflimlin of France, for the common handling of agricultural production and prices.

There is considerable difference of opinion between the various governments as to the most desirable type of organization for the purpose. The Dutch are said to prefer something in the nature of the Schuman plan, but which would, in the case of food stuffs, not necessarily be as limited. The Dutch argument is based on the feeling that the importance of foodstuffs and the nature of agriculture are such as to require, for fullest effectiveness, some over-all authority, independent of the vagaries of political opinion in a number of separate countries. Such an authority would be empowered to regulate both production and prices.

The British and French, on the other hand, are reported to prefer a consultative authority, through which each country in the scheme could integrate its policies with those of the others, while retaining its own sovereignty. France seems anxious that the United Kingdom and the Scandinavian countries be brought into the scheme. It appears obvious, however, that Britain, now in the midst of a concentrated effort to become more self-sufficient in food production, would not yield to any outside control of British food production, or of prices to her producers.

There are other obstacles to be overcome before Europe's Green Pool becomes a reality. France, though Europe's largest agricultural producer, is reported to be, with Italy, the least efficient in production, and accustomed to the highest prices. Her wheat yield is the lowest in Europe; her milk production is higher only than that of Italy, and her milk prices much the highest. A given area of French farm land produces only half as much as a similar area of Danish land and only about one-third as much as the same area in Belgium or Holland. The London Economist suggests that French agricultural machinery is in a scandalous state.

Such proposals as that of a Green Pool may sound strange to our ears, though in reality they are only stranger to a degree than a concord of 46 countries to buy and sell the major portion of the wheat entering into international trading. While these proposals represent a resort to unusual remedies for a situation which no single country is able to control, they may also be regarded as logical, if cautious, moves toward the eventual elimination of over-numerous European national boundaries. If the burden of excessive government and nationalism is ever to be lifted from the body of Europe, it is more likely to be achieved by a succession of trial moves, than by a single convulsive effort.